

Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates may be the richest American now, but a new study finds that he is only No. 5 on the list of the richest men throughout history. The survey is that the great titans of American industry — John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, John Pierpont Morgan, and John Jacob Astor — had amassed greater wealth when compared to the size of the U.S. economy of their time. Gates' fortune of \$62 billion looks pretty good now, but while fortunes have been growing larger over time, the U.S. economy, which includes other well-known financiers and industrialists such as banker J.P. Morgan and automobile Henry Ford

Tourists visit baby Bill Clinton in Uganda

KAMPALA (R) — More than 50 people, 20 of them foreign tourists, have visited a six-month-old baby in eastern Uganda named Baby Clinton. The baby, who is the son of a local paper salesman, was born four days before Clinton's visit to Uganda. The baby's name is a tribute to Clinton's visit to Uganda. The baby's mother, Betty Namugosa, is keeping a record of all the well-wishers in a notebook. The newspaper said Namugosa was active in preparations for the visit of Clinton to the town of Wanyange, about 80 km east of the capital Kampala, where the president and his wife Hillary visited a women's self-help project.

Madonna wants daughter to attend English boarding school

LONDON (AP) — Madonna is trying to persuade a place for her two-year-old daughter Lourdes at one of England's most traditional and exclusive girls' boarding schools. Cheltenham Ladies College, the first weekly The Express on Sunday reported. The woman of pop has put her daughter's name down on a lengthy waiting list for a place at the £21,000-a-year school, which is renowned for its strict discipline. The paper reported that Madonna is looking for a home in London and wished to put her daughter in a boarding school. Behind her and become an English Lady. Headmistress Vicki Tuck said: "There is no reason why Lourdes should have any trouble fitting in. The fact that we are a boarding school could be particularly appropriate as I am sure Madonna and Lourdes have a very hectic lifestyle."

Jagger takes Turkish holiday as world tour ends

ISTANBUL (AP) — Rolling Stones singer Mick Jagger is unwinding on a family holiday in Turkey after playing in Istanbul on Saturday for the last of the band's 107 concerts over a past 12 months. The veteran rocker started his break by spending Sunday night with wife Jerry Hall and one of their daughters at the Bodrum home of Ahmet Ertegun, the Turkish founder of the record label Atlantic. The Jagger agency reported. The Jagger family boarded a yacht Monday to sail off to the Aegean Sea to a unknown location. Jagger, 55, has asked the Turkish paparazzi photographers who have shadowed every move on the Stones first-ever concert in Turkey to let him and his family enjoy a holiday in peace.

2 Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon

TYRE (AFP) — Two Israeli soldiers were killed and another injured in the Israeli-occupied "security zone" in southern Lebanon on Tuesday, security sources said. The security sources said the Israeli soldiers were killed in an accident while the Islamist Resistance, the armed wing of the Hizbollah movement, said they died in an attack by members of the Shiite Muslim group. Islamic Resistance said in a statement that the Israeli soldiers were killed in an explosion triggered by Hizbollah as their patrol passed by. Security sources said, however, that their vehicle had an accident. Fourteen Israeli soldiers have been killed and 86 wounded in southern Lebanon since the beginning of the year, most in attacks by Hizbollah, according to an AFP toll.

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Ahead of confidence vote Deputies urge Cabinet to live up to promises

By Fairouz Abu-Ghazaleh

AMMAN — Lower House deputies on Tuesday pressed Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh's government to live up to its pledge to fight corruption, poverty and unemployment ahead of a vote of confidence before the end of the week.

In his policy statement, seeking the House's vote of confidence, Tarawneh last week pledged to fight corruption, red-tape and nepotism. He also promised decentralization and transparency as well as a commitment to developing civil service.

Irbid Deputy Majed Ababneh said corruption, bribery and the manipulation of laws and regulations were on the rise.

"We ask the government to be aware of these facts and to hold senior officials accountable as it does junior employees," he told the 80-seat Chamber.

Central Badia Deputy Ghazi Fayez echoed Ababneh's urging the government to contain the corruption "phenomena" by strengthening institutionalized control action as well as preserving and enhancing the independence of the inspection and Control Bureau.

Agreeing with his fellow lawmakers, Southern Badia Deputy Bakht Hajaya said he hoped that Tarawneh's 23-man team could present concrete policies to combat corruption.

"We hope to see practical measures in improving the administrative body by fighting corruption and nepotism, curbing bloated bureaucracy and holding officials accountable for their actions," he said.

Almost all of the 20 deputies who spoke on the first session of a two-day debate also asked the prime minister to address the high rates of poverty and unemployment as top priorities of his government.

The government has said 30 per cent of the population live in either abject or absolute poverty while 15 per cent of the workforce are unemployed. Independent estimates put joblessness at around 27 per cent among the country's 4.2 million people.

"Unemployment is like cancer that permeates the body of the workforce, denying people job opportunities, which are taken by non-Jordanian workers who do not hold valid work permits," said Amman Deputy Ra'd Bakri.

Jordan has more than 300,000 foreign workers, mostly Egyptians. However, about half of the foreign labour, who mainly hold menial jobs that are usually shunned by Jordanians, are illegally working in the country.

"The time has come for the government to take a sovereign decision to place matters in the right perspective," Bakri said. "It must organise the labour market and create job opportunities for Jordanians in order to eliminate poverty, which has found its ways to different classes, caused a rise in the rate of crime and in turn caused social instability."

Many of the deputies who spoke during yesterday's session, which lasted for more than six hours, also demanded that the government reveal all the facts related to the eight-week water contamination problem that hit the western



Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh and members of his Cabinet listen to deputies' statements on Tuesday, a day before the vote of confidence, expected to be in favour of the new government (Photo by Yusef 'Allan)

part of the capital.

While Zarqa Deputy Mikhled Zawahreh called for holding a national conference to discuss the recent water contamination crisis which led to the resignation of former Water Minister Munther Haddadin and the indictment of nine officials, Irbid Deputy Saleh Shawatash asked why the government kept the 100-page investigation report on water a secret.

"[The water problem] is not an individual crime for it to stay in the hands of the judiciary until the court looks into it," Shawatash said. "It is a crime against the people of Jordan who have the right to know the facts."

On the external level, many lawmakers harshly criticised Jordan's four-year-old peace process with Israel, and the hardline policies of Israeli

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"The Netanyahu government is going ahead with the destruction of what is called the peace process by continually declaring its rejection of the Oslo accords and by going ahead with building settlements and swallowing up Palestinian lands," Shawatash told the House. "These measures are coupled with further repressive acts, intimidation and terrorism against our brothers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip."

Amman Deputy Mohammad Koutz said the peace process was being damaged by the policies of Netanyahu who has not changed his "arrogant" stand.

"This government should have a clear policy towards Israel, which continues to repress our people and ignore

the agreements it has signed," he said.

Lawmakers will most likely cast their vote today after listening to the government's reply to deputies' demands. Analysts expect the cabinet, mandated on August 20, to obtain around 60 votes — the highest number of votes ever gained by any governments so far.

Members of three parliamentary blocs in addition to independent and opposition figures — grouping around 54 deputies — have agreed to present a unified statement during the second day of debate, today.

In this unprecedented move, the 54 deputies are planning to grant the government of Tarawneh a vote of confidence provided they review his government policies in six months before considering further support.

Lebanon bars PNA from Arab conference in Beirut

BEIRUT (AFP) — The Palestinian delegation to an Arab ministerial conference which opens here Tuesday was barred from taking part after having been refused entry visas to Lebanon, officials said.

Lebanon refused to grant visas to members of the Palestinian delegation because they were holding passports issued by Yasser

Arafat's PNA, officials at the foreign ministry said. Lebanon does not recognise the Israeli-Palestinian peace accords signed in 1993 in Oslo and subsequently the passports issued by the Palestinian Authority, they said.

Hassan Abu Labda, head of the Palestinian delegation, said in an open letter addressed to the confer-

ence that he was "profoundly shocked by the rejection which came for political reasons."

The conference, focusing on population and development, will be held until Friday at the headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

Arab women, children bear brunt of region's social, economic state — U.N.

BEIRUT (R) — Arab women and children are bearing the brunt of the underdeveloped social and economic conditions in the region, U.N. officials said on Tuesday.

The head of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia (ESCWA) told a population conference in Beirut that years of political instability and war had led to greater unemployment and poverty among Arabs.

"The Arab World has suffered from crises, problems and military developments that have cast a dark shadow over the Arab situation and had negative repercussions on the life of the Arab individual," ESCWA Executive Secretary Hazem Beblawi said.

He said this had slowed economic and social development in Arab countries, which suffered from high inflation and increased violence.

Krestin Trone, deputy executive director of the U.N. Population Fund Programme

(UNFPA), told the conference women and children were the most affected by these conditions.

"All too often, women's and girls' health and nutritional needs in the Arab region come second to those of the male family members," she said.

"Though much progress has been made, there is still a significant gender gap in school enrolment, in continuation rates in adult literacy and participation economic and political life." Both U.N. officials urged the international community to help Arab countries promote healthy social and economic practices.

"We in this part of the world are partners, if not a single body, in the face of this reality," Beblawi said.

"We must all cope and resist effectively and we must coordinate and cooperate in order to ward off the dangers and bring about sustainable development."

U.N. special envoy leaves Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AFP) — U.N. special envoy Prakash Shah has left Baghdad after a series of talks with the Iraqi leadership on solutions to the crisis over weapons inspections, a diplomatic source said Tuesday.

Shah left the Iraqi capital on Monday and is expected to join talks between Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz and U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan in New York on Sept. 28, the source said.

Aziz is expected to arrive in New York on

Sept. 26. He will also meet with members of the Security Council.

Shah arrived in Baghdad on Sept. 9 for several talks with Aziz over Annan's proposals for a "comprehensive review" of the sanctions imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The proposal is a bid to get Iraq to reverse its Aug. 5 decision to suspend cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors.

Baghdad has also threatened to break off all cooperation unless a Security Council resolution ending

regular sanctions reviews is reversed.

The oil embargo, the harshest of all sanctions, cannot be lifted until the weapons inspectors certify that Iraq no longer has chemical, biological and nuclear weapons or long-range missiles.

Iraq has reacted favourably to Annan's proposal. Aziz on Monday told the United Arab Emirates' Al-Itihad newspaper that he "appreciated the Secretary General's initiative, in which he sees positive points."

Washington confident about Iraqi Kurds accord

ANKARA (AFP) — A U.S. official in Ankara on Tuesday said Washington was confident that a power-sharing accord signed last week by the leaders of two main Kurdish factions in Iraq would be successful.

The agreement, sealed by a ceremonial handshake in Washington between leaders Massud Barzani and Jalal Talabani, came after six months of mediation by the U.S., Turkey and Britain.

Barzani, who heads the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), and Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), have clashed since 1994 over control of Iraqi Kurdistan,

causing 3,000 deaths.

The U.S. official, who wished to remain anonymous, said both sides appeared determined in meetings with top U.S. officials to bring about peace.

The power-sharing agreement, which has been described as a "transitional phase," will pave the way for elections in 1999 establishing a regional assembly for the territory.

The official said the accord included a schedule for settling differences, which would in turn enable the U.S. and other countries to send aid to northern Iraq through non-governmental organisations.

Without divulging details

of this schedule, the official said he would not be surprised if the Kurdish leaders were to meet in Ankara on their return to northern Iraq.

He added that it was also in Turkey's interest to maintain good relations with the PUK, which until now have been cool.

Ankara accuses Talabani of aiding the Turkish Kurdish separatists of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), against which the government has mounted several campaigns.

It argues that its relations with both the PUK and the KDP depend on these factions' ties to the Kurdish Workers Party.

Iran describes U.N. 'Six Plus Two' meeting positive

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran stressed Tuesday that it wanted a diplomatic solution to the crisis with the Taliban in neighbouring Afghanistan and dismissed any potential military threat from the hardline Islamic militia.

"We have made finding a diplomatic solution our priority," the official IRNA news agency quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif as saying.

"We will continue our efforts to find a political settlement to the current situation," Zarif said from New York, where he represented Iran at a meeting on Monday between Russia, the United States and Afghanistan's six neighbors.

The deputy Iranian foreign minister said diplomacy "is our goal and we don't want to put a time limit on it."

He described Monday's so-called "Six Plus Two" meeting on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly as a "positive step" and said he hoped it would be followed up by a "strong resolution from the Security Council."

"What is currently happening in Afghanistan is genocide," Zarif said in a reference to reported massacres of

Afghanistan's Shiite Muslim minority by the Sunni Muslim Taliban.

He said the Afghan crisis "should be a subject of major concern for the international community and not just an ethnic conflict or local problem."

Zarif also said Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi had not been able to attend the "Six Plus Two" meeting, in which U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright took part, because he had other obligations.

"Mr. Kharazi was unable to attend the meeting because he had to accompany President Muhammad Khatami in his talks," he said, adding that he had sent his "regrets."

Afghanistan's neighbours, the United States and Russia agreed at the meeting to send a U.N. envoy back to the region in a bid to prevent the conflict between Iran and the Taliban from spilling over into war.

U.N. chief Kofi Annan convened the session which was attended by Albright, Zarif, the foreign ministers from Russia, China, Pakistan and Uzbekistan, and the U.N. ambassadors from Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

It was the first time such high-level U.S. and Iranian officials

promote a dialogue between civilisations, the president said.

Iranian sources described reports in some U.S. media that Iran had lifted the fatwa or religious order condemning Rushdie to death as incorrect.

Responding to those reports, White House spokesman Mike McCurry told reporters: "Given our strong feelings on the fatwa issue on Salman Rushdie initially, if that is carried through and rescinded, that would be a welcome development."

But he cautioned that Iran's actions spoke louder than its words, which often came in different voices.

Iranian officials have repeatedly said that since Khomeini issued the order shortly before he died, no one else could rescind it.

Diplomats said they hoped Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi would clarify Iran's position, and possibly announce some practical measures to lessen the threat to Rushdie's life, when he meets British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook at the United Nations on Thursday.

Iran now wanted to move on from the cultural clash of the Rushdie affair, which poisoned relations between the Islamic republic and Europe, to have sat around the same table since the 1979 U.S. hostage-taking in Iran.

Iran has massed tens of thousands of troops along its eastern border with Afghanistan in response to the murders of eight Iranian diplomats and a journalist in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif last month. Shiite Moslem Iran is a key

backer of the anti-Taliban alliance in Afghanistan while Pakistan is seen as the chief supporter of the Taliban.

Iran's defense minister, Admiral Ali Shamkhani, said meanwhile that the Taliban were no match for the Iranian armed forces and do not pose a serious military threat to the Islamic Republic. "From a military

point of view the Taliban are not that strong to be able to pose any threat to Iran," he told the English-language Tehran Times.

Asked about upcoming exercises involving 200,000 Iranian troops along the border, the minister said: "Basically the main objectives of the maneuvers are to boost defensive powers of our forces."

Clinton's scandal draws mixed response from Mideast

AMMAN (AFP) — Newspapers across the Middle East gave a mixed response Tuesday to the sex-and-lies scandal surrounding U.S. President Bill Clinton ranging from tepid expressions of support to condemnation.

The worldwide broadcast Monday of Clinton's grand jury testimony on his affair with Monica Lewinsky caused some to sound alarms and others to dismiss the event, some to absolve the president and others to brand him a rogue.

An "alarmed" Jordanian commentator saw a "wounded" and

"dangerous" Clinton ready to replicate recent bombings of Sudan and Afghanistan "to make the people forget his televised scandal."

"Clinton is now like the wounded wolf, ready to do anything to save his skin — to avert the world's eyes from his shame by washing the dirt from some other part of the globe," the Al-Dustour columnist warned.

The Amman-based Jordan Times took the equally cynical but more light-hearted view that "according to the dominant values of American civilisation — per-

sonal material gratification and public exhibitionist entertainment — Bill Clinton has probably achieved the height of success."

Lebanon's opposition paper Al Anwar bemoaned the superpower president "paralysed in the White House" no longer able to rule his country, let alone the world, after his public humiliation.

The editor of the independent Lebanese An Nahar saw the affair as a simple reflection of U.S. foreign policy, slamming a "two-faced" Clinton at the head of a nation that "pretends to defend liberty and democracy while its dou-

ble-dealing policies give masked support to dictators."

Other Beirut papers described a pathetic and dejected president with headlines such as: "Humiliation Campaign Continues," "American President Stripped Before Millions" and "Washington Aims Its Dirty Laundry on Television."

In Iran, the English-language Iran News slammed the media-stoked affair which "has caused the president to twist in the wind" and called for a quick end to "irresponsible" coverage of the event to secure the world's interests.

"What Clinton has done in his private life is his business and is not an impeachable offence according to the American people," wrote the paper.

Eighty per cent of Israelis, one in three of whom watched the broadcast thanks to the Jewish New Year holiday, agreed that Clinton should remain president, according to a poll published Tuesday.

One of few journals to launch a personal attack on the U.S. president for the conduct which brought about the scandal was the Qatari paper Al Watan which

lashed out at Clinton the "adulterer" and "licentious" U.S. society.

"The fact that an adulterer like Clinton holds the reins of power in the United States should be no surprise for a licentious American society whose values are reflected in its president's behaviour," the paper wrote.

Elsewhere in the Gulf headlines read: "Clinton Pantomime" and "The Other Face of Bill Clinton" while the Saudi paper Okaz put the whole affair down to bipartisan political rancor.

"The Republicans will benefit from the president's tarnished

image. If he stays in power he will be a weak head of state in whom the American people will have no confidence," Okaz predicted.

In Palestinian papers, Bill Clinton's painful testimony was eclipsed by press coverage of Israeli threats to annex the Palestinian West Bank if a Palestinian state is declared.

Newspapers in Egypt, Kuwait and Syria meanwhile also withheld comment, preferring to give front page coverage of Clinton's U.N. anti-terrorism address alongside factual accounts on the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

Warlord warns of looming strife in Mogadishu

NAIROBI (AFP) — Somali warlord Osman Hassan Ali "Atto" warned Tuesday of looming civil strife in the Somali capital Mogadishu due to a decision by three warlords to set up a new administration excluding rivals.

Addressing a press conference here, Atto angrily expressed dismay that rivals Ali Mahdi Muhammad, Hussein Muhammad Aided and Muhammad Kanyare Afrah had decided to set up the new joint administration for the capital, excluding other faction leaders.

Saying that he was "extremely worried" by the increasing tension, caused by the "self-appointment" of the three leaders as the only legitimate rulers of Mogadishu, Atto predicted that the move by the three would lead to renewed civil war in Somalia, particularly in the capital.

"The action by Aided, Ali Mahdi and Afrah would lead Mogadishu into fresh fighting among the factions, unless they stopped referring to themselves as co-

chairmen of the new Mogadishu administration," Atto said in the Kenyan capital Nairobi.

Atto and his allied warlords have recently accused Aided and Ali Mahdi factions of preparing to attack regions in southern and central Somalia in a bid to impose their dictatorial clan administrations in the whole of Somalia.

Atto accused Egyptian special envoy to Somalia Mohammed Mustafa of being behind the "unilateral decision by Aided and Ali Mahdi over the Mogadishu issue," expressing regret that the foreign envoy was giving a wrong picture of the situation in Mogadishu to his government.

"Mustafa appears to be another typical warlord in Somalia," Atto said angrily. But Mustafa immediately denied any wrongdoing in Somalia and promised to talk to all faction leaders.

"I stand for peace in Mogadishu, without supporting any special group," the Banadir newspaper quoted Mustafa as having

said in Mogadishu on Monday.

Atto was reacting to Aided's pledge last week that with the help of other factions, he would establish a transitional government for Somalia at a conference to be held next January in the town of Baidoa, 250 kilometres west of the Somali capital, Mogadishu.

"Such statements are intended to mislead world opinion and are a ploy to earn financial support for greedy elements," Atto charged.

Atto, who was accompanied at the press conference by other warlords, urged the governments of Italy and Ethiopia to clarify their positions on the current controversy over the Mogadishu administration, in reference to a recent declaration by Aided that the two were supporting his group.

The Somali capital has been divided and ruled by clan warlords since the overthrow of dictator Mohammed Siad Barre in 1991.



IRAQIS READ ABOUT CLINTON SEX SCANDAL: Iraqis read newspapers Tuesday reflecting on the television broadcast of U.S. President Bill Clinton's grand jury testimony on the Monica Lewinsky scandal. The video was released and screened on Monday (Reuters photo)

Bombs in Algeria kill three, wound 18

ALGIERS (AFP) — Three bomb-blasts in Algeria killed two soldiers and a security guard and wounded a total of 18 other people, reported the local press Tuesday.

The blasts occurred Monday in Tizi Ouzou in the eastern region of Kabylia, in Saida and in Cheliff, both west of the capital, reported the papers.

In Saida, a powerful device exploded in the path of a military truck, killing two soldiers and wounding four passers-by, reported La Tribune, while in Cheliff, a bomb went off in a marketplace, wounding six people.

A security guard was killed in a blast targeting a convoy of guards escorting prisoners near Tizi Ouzou. Eight other guards were wounded.

'Egyptian prisoners two years overdue for release'

CAIRO (AFP) — Eighteen Egyptians convicted of espionage for Libya and sentenced to 20 years in prison in 1976 are still being held in jail today, two years after the end of their term, a human rights group said Tuesday.

"The 18 Egyptians finished their 20-year sentence two years ago and are still detained in Tora prison" south of Cairo, said the Human Rights Centre for the Assistance of Prisoners (HRCAP) in a report received by AFP.

HRCAP also accused the authorities of detaining five Jordanian nationals without trial for the past six years and called for their immediate release.

The report said the men were arrested between 1990 and 1992 and accused of "entering Egypt illegally in a bid to infiltrate Palestinian territories."

But according to HRCAP the five did not break any laws and entered Egypt "legally and did not carry any weapons, bombs or explosives."

Some of them suffer from tuberculosis, kidney problems, anemia and rheumatism, the report said.

More Saudi women needed in business — economist

RIYADH (AFP) — More Saudi women need to get involved in business despite the limits that are imposed by the strict Muslim law in the kingdom, a senior Saudi economist said Tuesday.

"Religion and the law give women the right to work and invest... but it is a very sensitive subject since they are sometimes confronted with issues related to religion, tradition and customs," the president of the Saudi Centre for Investment Studies, Abdul Aziz Al Dekhil, said.

Saudi women, who have to wear the veil in public and are banned from driving, represent five per cent of the kingdom's investors.

Under Saudi law, the state allows women to invest in different types of business, but within the limits set by Islamic law.

Businesswomen must have a male Saudi sponsor to represent them in dealings with the government and other businesses.

Dekhil was speaking at a women-only trade fair in Riyadh aimed at promoting the role of women in the kingdom's business.

He called for "a dialogue on women's work and its role in economic development."

The economist also suggested separate sections in the country's chambers of commerce and industry and the creation of associations to represent female doctors, engineers and economists.

About 20,000 Saudi women are registered to run businesses through the kingdom's chambers of commerce and industry, according to official figures.

Syria condemns Turkey's 'occupation' of part of Iraq

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syria strongly criticised the Turkish presence in northern Iraq on Tuesday, saying it was aimed at "changing the Arab identity there."

Turkey is believed to maintain several thousand troops in northern Iraq to prevent insurgents from crossing into its territory. But it refuses to confirm that the force is permanent, saying only that troops cross into Iraq whenever necessary.

Syria's long-strained relations with Turkey have deteriorated recently over disagreements in sharing the waters of the Euphrates River, which passes through both countries, and improving ties between Turkey and Israel, Syria's biggest foe.

Syria's Tishrin newspaper, which speaks for the government, suggested Iraq's presence in northern Turkey was permanent.

Turkey is fighting an insurgency by Kurds seeking autonomy in southeastern Turkey, and the rebels have sometimes taken refuge in northern Iraq.

"Foremost of these ambitions is occupying northern Iraq and changing the Arab identity there," the newspaper said.

Most of northern Iraq is under the control of Iraqi Kurdish groups. The groups received Western protection following their defeat by the Iraqi government in the wake of the 1991 Gulf war.

'U.S. impedes U.N. bid to end Iraq crisis'

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iraqi press on Tuesday accused Washington of trying to impede efforts by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to resolve a standoff with weapons inspectors.

On Aug. 5, Iraq suspended cooperation with the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) and the International Atomic Energy Agency which monitor Iraq's nuclear sites, until UNSCOM was restructured to reduce

what Iraq called excessive U.S. influence.

In response, the Security Council on Sept. 9 suspended its regular 60-day review of sanctions against Baghdad, but called for a "comprehensive review" of the embargo if Iraq resumed cooperation.

"There is a chance of success if the secretary general... is left to work without American pressure and blackmail," the influential newspaper Babel said in a front-page editorial.

"Annan and members of the Security Council who advocate justice in the Security Council should be aware of such irresponsible American behaviour," added Babel, which is owned by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday.

The official daily Al Iraq said: "The United States has employed all its evil means, inventions and lies to distort Iraq's credibility and reputation."

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Bashir invites Carter to visit'

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's president has invited to Khartoum former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who has called for an investigation into the attack last month on a Sudanese pharmaceutical plant, a daily newspaper reported Tuesday. President Omar Al Bashir said he hoped "contacts that have helped us reach an understanding in many regional and international questions could be boosted," the Akhbar Al Sa'a reported. The newspaper did not say how the invitation was conveyed. Last week, Carter said an investigation should determine whether the Aug. 20 attack was warranted on Al Shifa factory.

Iran to commemorate war with Iraq

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian armed forces are to stage a military parade here on Friday to mark the anniversary of the start of the 1980-88 war with Iraq, officials said Tuesday. Air force fighter-bombers, armoured vehicles and elite army troops are to take part in the parade to be held in Tehran's Azadi (Freedom) Square on Friday, a weekend day in the Islamic republic. Iran dates the start of the war to the Sept. 22, 1980 Iraqi bombardment of targets in Iran. The Iran-Iraq war left between 300,000 Iranians dead and 500,000 wounded according to Iranian figures.

Food poisoning hits 150 in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (AFP) — One hundred and fifty five people have been hospitalised for food poisoning in the south-eastern Saudi Arabian city of Khams Mshait, the official SPA news agency said Tuesday. Hospital sources said no one had died from the food poisoning, which came from a single restaurant, and all but 23 people had been discharged from hospital. A Saudi newspaper said on Monday that 66 people had been poisoned by a single restaurant in the southern Assir region.

Israelis want Clinton to stay on — poll

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A big majority of Israelis want Bill Clinton to carry on in office as U.S. president, according to a poll published on Tuesday. Eighty per cent of those questioned, who had watched the broadcast of Clinton's testimony on his affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky, thought the president should complete the remaining two years of his term. A remarkable one Israeli family in three watched the testimony, broadcast Monday in the middle of the Jewish New Year, the poll found. The poll was conducted by Datagraph among 500 Israelis and carries a margin of error of four per cent.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 4773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:10 "The Adventures of Teddy Ruxpin"
15:30 Children's Programme — Halfway to Cross the Galaxy and Turn Left
16:00 "The Album Show"
17:00 "Doc" — Ushuaia
18:15 "Sea Quest"
19:00 "Le Journal"
19:15 "Science Magazine" — E-M6
19:30 "News headlines"
19:35 "Comedy" — Keeping Mum
20:00 "Doc" — Envoy Special Magazine
20:30 "Computer Chronicles"
21:00 "Kung Fu"
22:00 "News in English"
22:30 "Chicago Hope (Ep.6)"
23:59 "Drama — Bugs"
01:00 "End of T.X."

PRAYER TIMES

04:01Fajr
05:19(Sunrise)Duba
11:28Dhuhr
14:56Asr
17:37Maghreb
18:54Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifiah, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 4632785
St. Joseph Church Tel.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

4624590

Terra Sancta Church Tel.

4622366

Anglican Church Tel.

4624853/4624811

St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 4771751

Amman International Church Tel. 5865897

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404

The Evangelical Local Church in Jordan Tel. 5811295

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932

St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440

Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138

Church of Presentation, Sweifiah Tel. 5920146

The United Catholic Church Tel. 4624757

The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190

Evangelical Free Church Tel. 4892679

The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052

The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 4771331

The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 4775261

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Skies will be partly cloudy with a chance of scattered showers over central and northern area, and winds westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, moderate weather conditions will prevail, winds northerly moderate to active, and seas calm.

Amman16/25

Aqaba21/33

Deserts15/28

Jordan Valley22/33

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26, Aqaba 34

Humidity readings: Amman 49 per cent, Aqaba 52 per cent.

Following are the highest temperatures expected today in the following areas:

Ajloun23

Jerash29

Um Qays29

Madaba29

Petra30

Dead Sea36

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Abdul Majid Al Sha'r 4381405
Dr. Fakhri Tayeh 4915880
Dr. Adnan Zaghloul 4898140
Dr. Fakhri Bileisi 5522333
Firas pharmacy 5661912

Al Asema pharmacy 4637055

Al Salam pharmacy 4636730

Yacoub pharmacy 4644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 4657660

Nairoukh pharmacy 4633672

Najib pharmacy 5347632

IRBID:

Dr. Mohammad Al Shar 273680

Al Quds pharmacy 21333

ZARQA:

Dr. Zuhour Al Qadi 906606

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 4637111

Civil Defence Department 5661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 4630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 4621111, 4637777

Fire Brigade 4617101

Blood Bank 4775121

Highway Police 5343402

Hotel Complaints 5605800

Public Security Dept. 4630321

Amman Municipality Complaints 4787111

Price Complaints 5661176

Water & Sewage Complaints 4897467

Amman Municipality Complaints 4787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 4623101

Repairs 5661101

Abdali Tel. Repairs 5661101

Jordan Television 4773111

Radio Jordan 4774111

Water Authority 5680100

J. Electricity Authority 5815615

Electric Power Co. 4636381

RJ Flight Information 44-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 44-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199

The Islamic, Abdali 5666131/7

Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 3856856

Luzmila 4640195

Khalidi Maternity 464231/6

Akileh Maternity 464234/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 4642362

Malhas, J. Amman 4636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 5607071

Shmeisani Hospital 5669131

University Hospital 5353444

Al-Muasher Hospital 5667227/9

Al-Ahli, Abdali 5664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 477101/3

Al-Bashir 4775111/26

Army, Marka 4891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 560240/50

Al-Bashir 5674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital 109983323

Zarqa National Hospital 109900560

Ibn Sina Hospital 09986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital 0999099

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital 02725555

Greek Catholic Hospital 02727275

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital 027247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital 03131411

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 44 (53200) or 44(53250).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ)

Flights

06:30Damascus (RJ)

08:30Jeddah (RJ)

08:45Larnaca (RJ)

08:55Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

09:45Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

14:55New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

16:30Madrid (RJ)

17:05Istanbul (RJ)

17:05Paris (RJ)

17:40Brussels, Geneva (RJ)

18:10London, Vienna (RJ)

18:25Frankfurt, Berlin (RJ)

18:30Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)

19:00Rome (RJ)

23:15Beirut (RJ)

00:05Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights

10:00Sana'a, Hudaiddah (Y)

10:30Kuwait (KU)

11:30Jeddah (SV)

12:15Cairo (MS)

13:10Tunis (TU)

14:05Vienna (OS)

15:10Dubai, Abu Dhabi (EK)

15:3

Bombs in Algeria kill three, wound 18

LIERS (AFP) — Three bombs exploded in Algeria on Tuesday, killing three people and wounding 18 others, according to the local press.

The blasts occurred in the town of Tizi Ouzou in the eastern region of Kabylia, in the town of Cheliff, east of the capital, reported the papers.

In Saïda, a powerful explosion exploded in the town, killing two soldiers and wounding four others, reported the press.

A security guard was killed in a blast targeting an army of guards escorting prisoners near Tizi Ouzou. Other guards were wounded.

war with Iraq
Iraqi army forces are on Friday, marking the 1980-88 war with Iraq. The Iraqi army forces are on Friday, marking the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

50 in Saudi Arabia
Iraqi army forces are on Friday, marking the 1980-88 war with Iraq. The Iraqi army forces are on Friday, marking the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

ired and angry people
Iraqi army forces are on Friday, marking the 1980-88 war with Iraq. The Iraqi army forces are on Friday, marking the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

to stay on — poll
Iraqi army forces are on Friday, marking the 1980-88 war with Iraq. The Iraqi army forces are on Friday, marking the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

Other Flights
Iraqi army forces are on Friday, marking the 1980-88 war with Iraq. The Iraqi army forces are on Friday, marking the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

Home News

Charitable society suspends work to protest court decision

By Mohammad Ben Hussein

AMMAN — Khalil Al Rahaman (Hebron) Society has decided to suspend its charity work as of today to protest a court decision to fine it JD60,000 for engaging in commercial activities.

Wahid Ja'bari, the society's chairperson, told the Jordan Times yesterday that the society will suspend its aid to 136 needy families because it was unable to pay them.

He described the decision by the customs court as "unfair and illegal."

The court imposed the stiff fine because the society rents its main hall for wedding celebrations, which the court said is extra revenue that should be taxed.

Ja'bari, former Lower House deputy and prominent Hebronite, insisted that the rental fees generate extra funds that the society spends on needy families.

"The revenues generated by the hall are used to assist people because the society is a non-profit organisation," he explained.

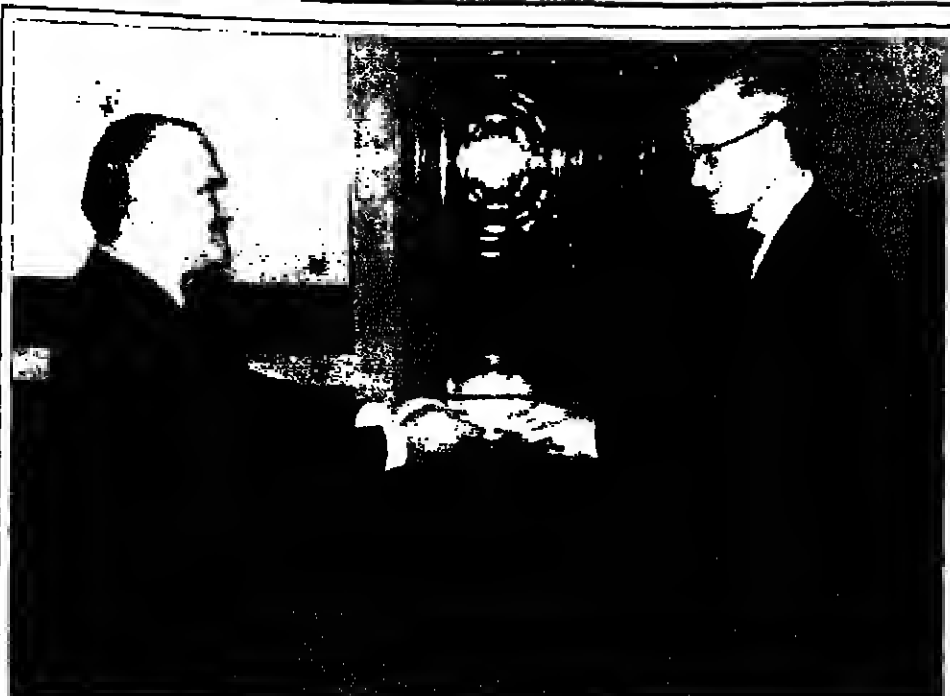
He said the society supports 135 families with monthly payments and spends JD3,000 per month on charitable activities.

Members of the society said the hall is not used exclusively for wedding celebrations, but also for lectures, social activities, funerals, dispute reconciliation and other activities.

Minister of Social Development Mohammad Khair Mansour told the Jordan Times on Tuesday that "the society is charitable and has contributed to society in different ways."

But, the minister said, the court decision must be respected.

The ministry has sent a letter to the Cabinet urging it to review the issue and find a solution to save the society, the minister said.



REGENT RECEIVES ENVOYS' CREDENTIALS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Tuesday receives the credentials of new French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Emié at the Royal Court. The Regent also received the credentials of new Belgian Ambassador to Jordan Philippe Kums. The presentation ceremony was attended by Royal Court Chief Jawad Anani, His Majesty King Hussein's Advisor Salah Abu Zeid and Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Khatib (Photo by Boghos)

Conference ends with call for higher employment committee

By Mohammad Ben Hussein

AMMAN — A controversial unemployment conference which concluded on Tuesday called for the establishment of a higher committee for employment and combating unemployment.

The committee, to be headed by the labour minister and linked to the Prime Ministry, will submit periodic reports to the premier on the pressing problem of unemployment.

Meanwhile, Minister of Administrative Development Bassam Emoush said the government has the political will to fight unemployment, including cracking down on foreign workers.

Emoush was replying to a question on whether a decision to cut down on foreign labour could harm Jordan's relations with some Arab countries.

There are around 300,000 foreign workers in Jordan, mostly Egyptians, Syrians and Iraqis. Many are working illegally.

Several columnists and economists had criticised the conference on the grounds that it failed to include concrete solutions to the increasing jobless rate.

Others charged that officials offered contradictory information on the number of unemployed and foreign workers in Jordan, which they said makes finding a proper mechanism to solve the problem difficult.

Participants at the three-day conference nevertheless agreed on five strategies that could help remedy the situation.

The strategy included organising the local labour market by launching a national campaign to emphasise the value of work, adjusting foreign workers' conditions in accordance with agreements signed between Jordan and other countries, establishing a database on local and foreign labour forces and facilitating the establishment of privately run employment offices.

Unemployment in Jordan is officially estimated at 15 per cent and independently at 27 per cent.

The conference also called for launching educational awareness campaigns on labour market demands, activating the role of the Islamic "waqf" (trust) in creating jobs, enhancing vocational training, and reconsidering educational policies in accordance with labour market demands.

The strategy stressed the necessity of promoting investment through fighting bureaucracy, constructing housing estates, and facilitating the licensing of new banks.

The recommendations pressed for expanding the umbrella of the Social Security Corporation to include the unemployed, unifying employment and social development funds, establishing an insurance fund for the jobless and studying the possibility of setting a minimum wage in accordance with the cost of living.

Participants also called for reviewing legislation to reduce the number of foreign workers and help create more jobs.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, called for immediate as well as long-term solutions to the problem of unemployment.

"What is required of this conference is not only an analysis of the problem but finding suitable solutions that society is capable of adopting," based on participation with the private sector, said Prince Hassan, who inaugurated the opening ceremony of the long-awaited conference.

His Majesty King Hussein, in his letter of designation to the government of Fayez Tarawneh last month, asked it to concentrate on fighting social ills such as unemployment and poverty.

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Union will grant JD1,473,731 to help a French medical organisation carry out medical programmes for Palestinian refugees living in the Taybeh, Baqa'a and Jerash camps as well as in the Shalaleh area of Aqaba, according to an agreement signed Tuesday.

EU grants JD1.47m for refugee camp medical programmes

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Union will grant JD1,473,731 to help a French medical organisation carry out medical programmes for Palestinian refugees living in the Taybeh, Baqa'a and Jerash camps as well as in the Shalaleh area of Aqaba, according to an agreement signed Tuesday.

The agreement will be implemented by Médecins du Monde, a non-political, non-profit humanitarian NGO.

The agreement provides for the establishment of a JD215,000 comprehensive health centre at the Baqa'a camp which will include primary medical clinics, specialist clinics, emergency and X-ray units, a pharmacy and a laboratory, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The grant will also cover the cost of establishing a JD144,000 comprehensive health centre in the Jerash refugee camp, Petra added.

According to the provisions of the agreement, work on the projects will be completed by October 1999.

Estimates by the Palestinian Affairs Department indicate that nearly 100,000 residents of the Baqa'a camp and 30,000 residents of the Jerash camp will benefit from the new facilities, which are expected to contribute to the improvement of the refugees' living conditions.

Department Director General Ibrahim Badran, who signed the accord with representatives from Médecins du Monde and the EU, voiced appreciation of the EU's humanitarian assistance.

Badran said the department is looking forward to opening the two clinics as soon as possible and expressed hope that similar services would be carried out in the other Palestinian refugee camps in the country.

UNRWA chief arrives today to discuss workers' demands

AMMAN (J.T.) — The commissioner general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency is due in Amman today to meet with representatives of 23,000 agency workers over demands for pay increases and better working conditions.

Representatives of the estimated 6,500 UNRWA employees in Jordan were quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that at the meeting with Peter Hansen, they will also press for a re-examination of the salary scale, reducing the early retirement age from 55 to 50, and lowering the minimum period of service required for pensions from 30 years to 25.

On Sept. 15, UNRWA workers staged a one-day strike shutting down social, educational and health services offered to tens of thousands of Palestinian refugees in Jordan.

The workers said then that if their demands were not met, they would hold an open strike beginning Sept. 28.

The strike in Jordan was part of a wider protest by the agency's workers in its other fields of operations, which also include Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The agency provides services to 3.5 million Palestinian refugees.

UNRWA faces a \$65 million deficit in its \$314 million budget for 1998, a situation which has forced it to adopt cost reduction measures including suspending recruitment of teachers, cancelling hospitalisation programmes and reducing internal staff by 15 per cent.

Hansen previously told the agency's workers that their salaries were higher than those of government employees, but the workers argued that they do not receive the same benefits while their salaries have not been consistent with the increase in the cost of living.

The director general of the Palestinian Affairs Department, Ibrahim Badran, yesterday expressed hope that the two sides would reach an understanding and resolve all outstanding issues through dialogue.

Badran added that the government will exhaust all efforts to arrive at a settlement in order to help the agency pursue its mission of providing services to refugees in the camps.

Badran said he will meet with Hansen today to review the outstanding issues and discuss means of enabling the agency to maintain its services.

Badran noted that an actual strike would mean that the two sides have reached a dead end, a result he said would lead to suffering on the part of beneficiaries of the agency's services as well as its employees.

ICRC plans third visit to Kuwait for families of prisoners

By Randa Naffa

AMMAN — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) office in Amman is planning to take families of prisoners held in Kuwait to visit them, the outgoing head of the ICRC Delegation, Jacques Demaille, said.

"We have organised two visits to Kuwait in the past two years, and now we are planning a third visit. But no time has been set," said Demaille.

Demaille was speaking at a press conference at the ICRC office in Amman yesterday attended by the new head of delegation, Pascal Cuttat, and his assistant Mu'ib Kassab.

Demaille reviewed the ICRC annual report and announced the appointment of the new delegation.

According to the annual report, the ICRC maintained contact between families living in Jordan and their relatives in Kuwaiti prisons by arranging for 51 Jordanians to visit their relatives and facilitating the exchange of letters between the prisoners and their families.

The ICRC delegates based in Jordan also kept up their regular activities to protect detainees, restore and maintain links between families in Jordan and their relatives living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, promote international humanitarian law among various target groups and support the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), according to the report.

The report said the ICRC forwarded 97 official and 136 urgent documents from families in Jordan to relatives in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

The ICRC also made 40 visits to 468 detainees in eight jails in the Kingdom and carried 106 letters on their behalf, the report said.

In cooperation with the JNRCS and the Ministry of Education, the ICRC gave regular courses on humanitarian law to schoolchildren, teachers and Red Crescent members, according to the report.

Demaille stressed that the relationship between the ICRC and the Jordanian authorities was exemplary.

"We can hardly speak of a better relationship where an extremely open and constructive dialogue is kept," he said.

Jordan is considered an important base because of the ICRC's assistance programmes in Iraq, he added.

However, the ICRC expressed concern that violence in the region and failure to conflicts may impede their efforts to protect civilians.

Demaille pointed out that the ICRC's achievements in the region failed to meet the expectations of all those entitled to protection and assistance under humanitarian law.

The ICRC remained convinced that respect for humanitarian principles would contribute toward ending the violence in countries of the Middle East and North Africa, he said.

Cuttat, the Swiss head of the new delegation, was appointed by the ICRC management in Geneva and will serve in Jordan for the next 2 to 2 1/2 years.

Cuttat first joined the ICRC in 1991 and has served in Kuwait, Jerusalem, Lebanon and Somalia, and as head of the mission in Gaza for three years.

Jordan will join Middle Eastern neighbours Egypt, Lebanon, Turkey, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates in doing their part to clean up the earth.

The society, which is representing the Kingdom in the annual event for the sixth time, is a volunteer organisation of 4,300 members and includes 75 governmental and non-governmental organisations.

Clean Up the World, a Sydney-based project set up in 1991 in conjunction with the United Nations Environment Programme, is expected to involve 40 million people around the world in its campaign this year.

Several activities are being planned by the campaign's organising committees across the Middle East, ranging from tree-planting, basic clean-ups, environmental competitions and educational programmes.

"It is inspiring to see that the simple message of Clean Up the World has been so well accepted by the people of the Middle East," said initiative founder and chairman Ian Kiernan. "It proves that the environment knows no boundaries and that people from all over the world share a common concern for the environment."

Other foreign correspondents face the membership problem and are holding consultations over it and that they hope to reach a collective decision soon.

"None of the correspondents are inclined to join, but if the law is implemented and we have no other alternative, then we will," another correspondent said.

'Charges against water officials expected to include criminal offences'

By Rana Hussein

AMMAN — The Amman prosecutor Tuesday concluded investigations into the water contamination crisis, and the charge sheet is expected to include criminal offences, judicial sources said.

The charges against the nine officials will range from misdemeanours to criminal offences," the source told the Jordan Times yesterday.

He said the charge sheet should be finalised within 10 days.

Last week, all nine officials, including Water Authority Secretary General Munther Khleifat, were each released on JD1,000 bail pending trial.

Among the nine officials were employees from the Zai Water Treatment Plant and the Water Authority.

Prosecutor Mohammad Harashsheh will refer the case to the attorney general, who in turn will review the file before referring it to the Amman Criminal Court, one source said.

In early July of this year, residents in the western parts of Amman, which receives most of its water from the Zai plant, complained of a foul-smelling, murky water.

A special investigation committee formed to investigate the crisis prepared a 100-page report which was submitted to the attorney general.

The report was never released because it contained names of officials.

showroom, until Sept. 30 (Tel. 4613081).

Photography exhibition entitled "Les Cite's d'Artistes a Paris" at the premises of the Association of the Jordanian Plastic Artists, Jabal Weibdeh, until Sept. 30.

Paintings by Rula Shukairy at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Amman, until Sept. 30.

what's going on

FILM
• "The Arrival" at the American Centre, Abdoon on Thursday Sept. 24 at 5:00 p.m.

LECTURE
• "New Media, New Literacies: Language Teaching in the Age of Information" by Dr. Mark Warschauer at the American Centre auditorium, U.S. Embassy, Abdoon at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS
• Paintings by Mohammad Polise entitled "A Tune and Colour" at the City Hall, Ras Al 'Ain (Tel. 4743158), until Sept. 30.
• Display of Bani Hamida and Jordan River Designs products (rugs, cushions, wall-hangings, and quilts) at the Jordan River Designs

Press law article forcing association membership criticised by independent journalists

By Alia Shukri Hamzeh

AMMAN — Journalists who are not members of the Jordan Press Association could be banned from writing once the government implements article 2 of the controversial Press and Publications Law, which went into effect Sept. 1.

Article 2 of the law, which was highly criticised by both journalists and human rights activists, stipulates professional requirements for practising journalists, including mandatory membership in the association.

It identifies a journalist as "any registered member of the association who takes journalism as a profession in accordance with laws governing it."

According to Tariq Momani, vice president of the association, any non-member journalist could be "banned by the Press and Publications Department for illegally assuming the identity of a journalist."

Momani, who could not estimate the number of practising non-member journalists, advised them to start applying for membership as soon as the JPA law goes into effect.

He said, however, that years of experience a journalist acquired before applying for membership in the JPA are not taken into account.

According to the JPA law, those with a PhD in journalism get automatic membership. Those with a masters degree in journalism will have to undergo a six-month training period, and those with a bachelors degree in journalism, one year.

Community college graduates with diplomas in journalism have to train for two years, those who have a high school degree but a minimum experience of eight years would become members after six months of the law going into effect.

Non-JPA members who have long years of experience protested.

S. African troops enter Lesotho

MASERU, Lesotho (AP) — South African troops rumbled into the tiny mountain kingdom of Lesotho at dawn Tuesday to quell weeks of anarchy and took control of military bases, the royal palace and residential areas.

At least three South African soldiers were killed and 11 wounded in South Africa's first major post-apartheid military intervention, the military said in Pretoria.

Protesters firebombed government buildings, looted rampaged through downtown and cars with South African licence plates were being stoned.

Whole shopping centres were gutted by fire, and smoke drifted from many parts of Lesotho's capital, just across the border from South Africa.

The action follows weeks of opposition party demonstrations over allegations of election-rigging and an army rebellion that effectively paralysed the government.

Lesotho, an impoverished kingdom of 2 million people, is surrounded by South African territory and dependent on its neighbour's economy.

The intervention follows fruitless efforts by South African mediators over the weekend to bring the government and opponents together in talks.

A Lesotho opposition spokeswoman, Mamello Morriso, criticised South Africa in a radio interview from Maseru.

"Mandela ... has sent a

troop of soldiers to come and butcher innocent Lesotho (people) who are fighting for their democratic rights," she said.

There was no word on the whereabouts of King Letsie III, figurehead monarch, said a South African military spokeswoman, air force Lt. Col. Laverne Machine.

A major firefight raged at an army barracks Tuesday afternoon. Automatic rifle fire and mortar explosions were heard. Fifteen armoured vehicles equipped with cannons came to reinforce the South Africans.

At the border, opposition party supporters set a barricade on fire and said South African soldiers shot at them but no one was wounded. The activists taunted the South African troops as they crossed into Lesotho.

"Why did (South African President Nelson) Mandela send them here?" Patrick Ndube asked, gesturing with arms wide open.

The South African military said the besieged Lesotho government had called for intervention by the Southern African Development Community, which South Africa chairs.

Under apartheid, South Africa's rulers sent troops across its borders to countries including Angola and Namibia to take part in wars and to pursue government opponents, particularly in Lesotho and Botswana. But since all-race elections in 1994, South Africa had stuck to a policy of peaceful mediation.

Officials said the South African force had secured Lesotho military headquarters, the main air force base, its central business district and the neighbourhood where most diplomats and cabinet members live.

The troops, backed by eight helicopters, battled Lesotho soldiers siding with the opposition at the royal palace and seized it.

A South African Broadcasting Corp. cameraman was injured, and four Lesotho soldiers were led away as prisoners, SABC radio said.

The 60 or 70 American citizens in Maseru were told to stay indoors. U.S. Ambassador Katherine Petersoo said.

Flights to Maseru's airport were halted.

Six-hundred South African troops, armoured personnel carriers, attack helicopters and mortar units were involved so far, Machine said.

South Africa's apartheid-era ruling National Party, now in the opposition, condemned the intervention.

"Such intervention cancels (the) government's previous commitment to peaceful solutions for conflict situations on the continent," the party said.

Opposition demonstrators say May elections swept by the Lesotho Congress Party were rigged.

A report by a commission from South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe last week cited "serious concerns" about voting but did not suggest invalidating the election.



South African National Defence Force (SANDF) members collect weapons left by fleeing Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) and armed members of opposition parties in Maseru after exchanges of fire at the entrance of the King Letsie III palace (AFP photo)

600 ex-rebel soldiers abandon Savimbi's UNITA in Angola

LUANDA (AFP) — Six hundred soldiers of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) have abandoned their traditional leader Jonas Savimbi to join dissidents, government sources have declared.

Some 1,000 people, including the troops, left military camps in Cunene province for Kuvevalli town and asked to join a UNITA "renewal committee" opposed to Savimbi, the sources said, according to Tuesday's press.

The soldiers, who had been encamped at Mbule, Maveoda and Kabele in the far southern province, quit these sites and asked to join the committee set up early this month by top UNITA members who have disavowed Savimbi.

The committee, whose founders include UNITA former secretary-general Eugenio Manuvakola, the man who signed a peace pact with the Luanda regime on the rebels' behalf in 1994, contends that Savimbi could

plunge the whole southern Africa country back into devastating civil war.

UNITA soldiers have been blamed by Luanda for ongoing clashes, notably in mineral-rich parts of Angola, and attacks on highways in escalating violence since March, though the movement announced then that it had fully disbanded in order to become a solely political party.

Savimbi, who fought the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) after independence in 1975, has for years been ensconced in central strongholds and refused to join aides and elected UNITA politicians in the capital.

When previous rifts in UNITA became a total split with the formation of the "renewal committee", the government of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos hastened to recognise it as the "only valid interlocutor" in the peace process set in motion by the Lusaka protocols of November 1994.

However, the U.N. observer mission in Angola (MONUA) and the troika of nations monitoring the Lusaka accords — former colonial power Portugal and the United States and Russia, which respectively backed UNITA and the MPLA during the cold war years — have yet to take a clear position.

The UNITA dissidents have named Manuvakola their delegate to a joint commission with Luanda and the United Nations on implementing the peace accords, but the new U.N. special envoy to Angola, Issa Diallo, has not yet stated whether he recognises the replacement of Savimbi's men by the renewal committee.

Nevertheless, with Luanda contending that Savimbi has failed to disarm more than 30,000 of his troops in line with the Lusaka accords, UNITA has already been subjected to international sanctions and the domestic suspension of activities by its politicians.

Science helps restore lost portion of da Vinci painting

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two centuries ago, somebody sawed off a third of a painting by Leonardo da Vinci. Now, using modern technology, an expert at the National Gallery of Art has produced an image of the original work — it resembles the famed Mona Lisa.

David Alan Brown used a computer and a drawing borrowed from Britain's Windsor Castle to help reconstruct the missing portion of the only Leonardo painting in America.

Brown, the gallery's top man on Leonardo's period, published a book Tuesday called "Leonardo da Vinci: Origins of a Genius," that tells how the job was done.

Brown doesn't know just where, when or by whom the damage was done, but he said in an interview that the painting was probably cut down because of fire or water damage. Someone more than 200 years ago trimmed pieces off the side and bottom of the

portrait of the 16-year-old beauty, Ginevra de Benci.

Once apparently 38 cm wide and 56 cm tall, the remaining part of the original — on show at the National Gallery — measures only 38 cm in height by 37 cm in width.

The reconstruction seeks to show how it looked when Leonardo painted it half a millennium ago.

The placement of Ginevra's arms in the remaining portrait indicates that her folded hands would have been visible so Brown used the Windsor drawing, a sketch of hands done by Leonardo, to help reconstruct the missing area.

It gives Ginevra gracefully folded arms and a sprig of three flowers in her right hand.

They signify love or chastity, Brown said. Ginevra was about to be married.

"Beyond its obvious suitability for a betrothal painting," Brown wrote, "holding

flowers must have had a personal meaning for Leonardo, who returned to it again and again in his early works."

The computer work was done on a Macintosh using software that permitted layering of images, so they could be manipulated by trial and error. An infrared thermal imaging camera also helped, as did a live model apparently Ginevra's size.

"We used the computer like a brush," said Brown, who is making a film on the project that should be ready by next year.

Brown suggested that many other altered paintings could be examined by using his new techniques, including at least one other piece in the gallery's collection.

"There's the 'Feast of the Gods,' by (Giovanni) Bellini and Titian," he said. "A bit of landscape is left in one corner. After Titian worked over it, we'd like to see the rest of the landscape, what the picture looked like originally."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russian ex-premier quits Duma contest

MOSCOW (R) — Former Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who lost a bruising battle to be reconfirmed in the post earlier this month, Tuesday abandoned a bid for a seat in parliament. In a bitterly worded televised statement, Chernomyrdin, who was widely ridiculed by deputies during a failed confirmation debate in the state Duma lower house of parliament last month, said he would not contest a Sunday by-election in Siberia's vast, sparsely populated Yamalo-Nenets region. I cannot and do not want to remain in power at any cost, and cannot and do not want to give my opponents and the opposition reason or opportunity to again rock the political boat," he said. "After what has taken place, I most likely cannot work together constructively alongside the leaders of Duma factions and groups. You cannot build a relationship on lies and two-facedness," he said. Russia's public ORT television station, which broadcast the statement, said Chernomyrdin had said he would still run for president in 2000. The former prime minister has never had a seat in parliament and was appointed to his post by President Boris Yeltsin who has discretion in whom he selects as prime minister. Chernomyrdin, a former gas industry boss known as a mild-mannered centrist during more than five years as premier, lost his temper several times during the parliamentary hearings, which eventually resulted in the appointment of veteran foreign minister Yevgeny Primakov as a compromise prime minister. Chernomyrdin is still officially head of the Our Home is Russia political party, but the party's chief parliamentary deputy, Alexander Shokhin, has joined Primakov's government as a deputy premier.

Pakistan charges Bhutto's spouse with corruption

LAHORE, Pakistan (R) — A Pakistani court Tuesday formally charged Asif Ali Zardari, husband of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, with corruption under the country's Ehtesab or accountability laws. A two-member Ehtesab bench of the Lahore High Court charged that Zardari possessed property and valuables worth much more than his declared and known sources of income. Zardari declined to enter a guilty or innocent plea in the court saying he had no lawyer to assist him, adding that he reserved the right to plead guilty or otherwise after consulting with his counsel, Zardari, who has been detained by various Pakistani courts since November 1996 for different crimes, accused Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government of political victimisation. Zardari also faces a trial in Sindh province as a co-accused in the 1996 murder of Murtaza Bhutto, Benazir's brother. "I am unable to plead one way or the other. I am not assisted by a lawyer and I reserve my right to plead one way or the other after engaging a counsel," Zardari told the court. The charge sheet includes a long list of assets allegedly held by Zardari, Bhutto or their associates in Pakistan, worth about 22 billion rupees (\$48 million). It also includes a list of overseas bank accounts and assets of unspecified worth. Opposition leader Bhutto was sacked as prime minister by former President Farooq Leghari in 1996 on disputed charges of corruption and misuse. She denies all charges and says she is being politically victimised by Sharif's administration.

Basque politicians assail insistence on disarming guerrillas

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain (AFP) — Herri Batasuna, the political wing of the Basque separatist movement ETA, Tuesday described as "shameful" the government's insistence that ETA disband and disarm as a precondition for peace talks. Herri Batasuna spokesman Joseba Pernach said that the government's response to ETA's declaration of an unlimited ceasefire had "shown its policy of negation." The government in Madrid had "responded in a shameful manner," he said. ETA announced an unlimited ceasefire Wednesday, but it did not offer to lay down arms nor drop its goal of sovereignty for the Basque country. Government spokesman Josep Pique told a news conference in Bilbao Monday that there could be no peace talks with ETA until it proved its sincerity by disbanding and handing over its weapons. The government "should not have to thank someone because he stops killing or respond with gestures to the fact that those who kill have stopped killing," Pique said. "The ones who should get a move on, who should show their good faith through action are neither the democrats nor the government but rather ETA," he said.

China warns U.S., Japan about missile defence agreement over N. Korea

BEIJING (AFP) — China warned the United States and Japan Tuesday against pushing a missile defence system to counter future threats from North Korea. "The parties concerned should exercise restraint and refrain from doing anything that may cause tensions in the region and spark a new arms race in the region," foreign ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao said. "The Chinese side is opposed to the practice of any side to exaggerating this matter, seeking military superiority or undermining regional security," he added. Pyongyang launched a three-stage missile which overflew Japan on Aug. 31. Part of it travelled about 6,000 kilometres near Alaska in the Pacific. The missile launch prompted Tokyo and Washington to begin studying a missile defence system at a recent meeting in the United States. "We discussed the urgent need to work together to develop a ballistic missile defence system to counter future threats," said Defence Secretary William Cohen Sunday. "This is the best way to protect both the United States and Japan," he added. Cohen said he planned to visit Japan in November to discuss the planned missile system and other security issues.

French tourist hit by bullet in India's Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — A sniper bullet pierced the thigh of a French tourist strolling with his girlfriend in the capital of insurgency-hit Kashmir province Tuesday, police and doctors said. The heavily bleeding tourist, identified by police as Peter Marek Korzec of Paris, was rushed by his friend and their guide to hospital from near Srinagar's historic Jama Masjid mosque after he was hit in his left thigh by a bullet fired apparently from a distance by a sniper. The identity of the attacker and the motive of the attack were not immediately known, police investigators said. The bullet was removed at Srinagar's Soura Hospital in Srinagar and the victim was out of danger, doctors said. Kashmir has been gripped by separatist violence since 1989. Muslim militants in predominantly Hindu India's only Muslim-majority state want independence or to join neighbouring Pakistan, which is officially Islamic.

AP completes acquisition of Worldwide Television News

NEW YORK (AP) — The Associated Press announced Monday it has completed the acquisition of Worldwide Television News from ABC News and will combine it and the existing APTV service into a new global video news agency, Associated Press Television News.

APTN is expected to provide fast and reliable coverage of the day's top stories to nearly 350 television news customers around the globe, making it the world's leading video news agency. APTN will

have newsgathering resources in 83 news bureaux operating in 67 countries, which will be supplemented and supported by news gathering in 154 other AP bureaux and news supply agreements with more than 350 television news organisations.

The newly named service combines and integrates APTV, AP's 4-year-old global video news service, with WTN, a leading supplier of international video news since 1963. The acquisition was announced in June; no purchase price was

announced.

APTN will also provide a rich selection of specialised television news services, including feature and archive services, daily entertainment news, customised coverage from the Middle East and an extensive video archive of more than 100 years of news footage, representing nearly every major historical event of the 20th century.

In addition, APTN will have the largest broadcast special services operation in the world, providing camera crews, editing and

satellite delivery to customers in the field. APTN is also a major supplier of sports news through its partnership with SNTV, Sports News Television.

"APTN will offer up-to-the minute video news from around the world and will support it with the kind of responsive customer service the AP is known for," said Louis D. Boccardi, AP's president and chief executive officer. "This is a giant step forward for the AP, its member owners and its clients. In addition to reinforcing

our place in video, it assures a timely and reliable supply of video for all our member Internet services."

The AP, a news cooperative celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, is the world's oldest and largest news service, serving more than 15,000 news organisations worldwide.

"Broadcasters around the world will benefit from the most comprehensive range of news services available anywhere. We will have bureaux wherever the news happens. Customers will be

able to get all they need from a single supplier," said Derek Taylor, managing director of APTN. "Three qualities will mark us out: We are focused on the needs of our customers, our sole business is news, and APTN is the one agency customers can rely on — to cover the news with integrity and to deal fairly with our clients."

Taylor, a veteran broadcast news correspondent, bureau chief and marketing director, joined the AP in June.

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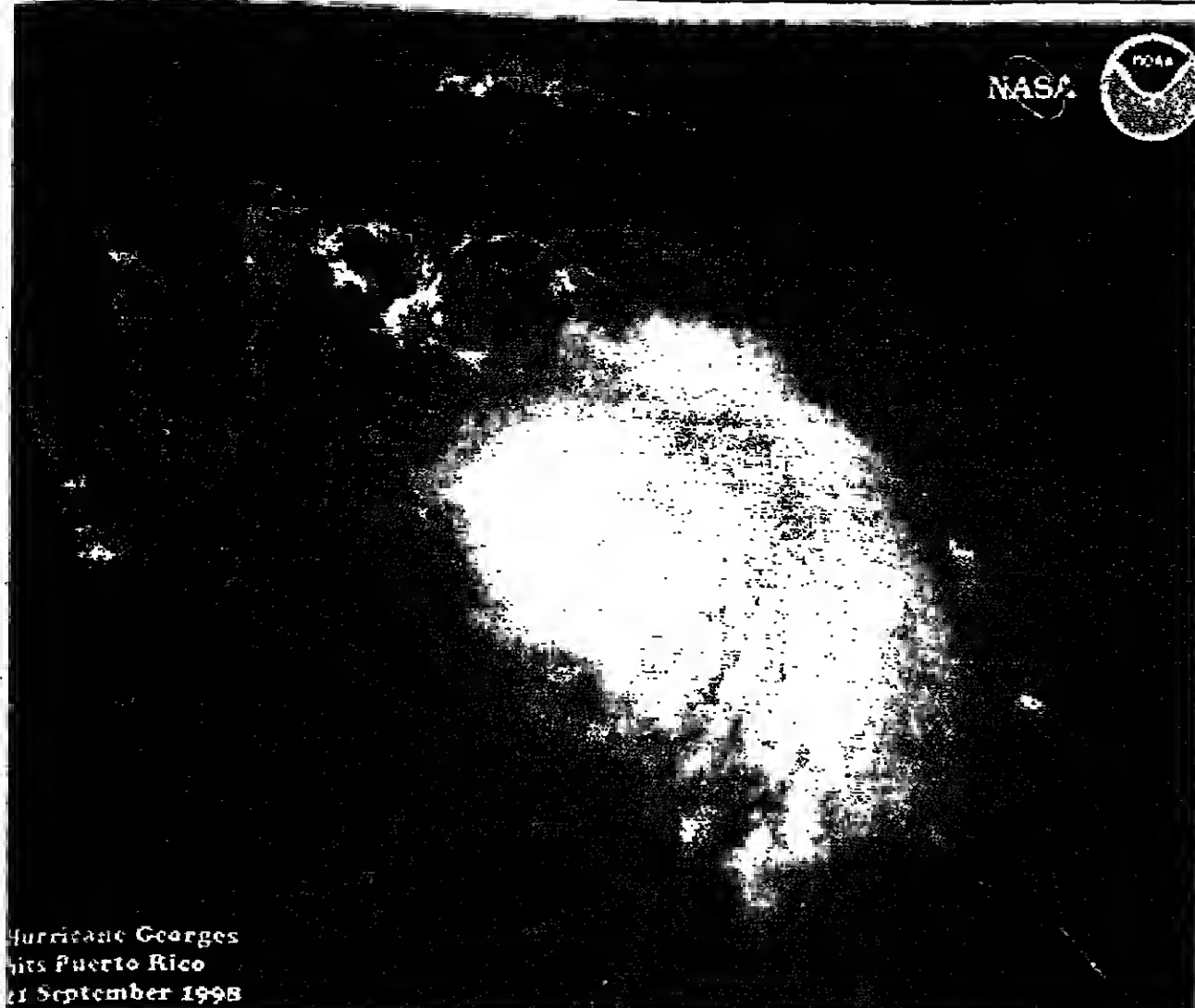
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Hurricane Georges
hits Puerto Rico
11 September 1998

This satellite image taken by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency shows Hurricane Georges approaching Puerto Rico. Georges unleashed its fury on Puerto Rico overnight, killing at least two people, destroying scores of houses and forcing thousands of people into shelters, officials said Sept. 22. The storm, packing winds of 175 kph marched westward across the Caribbean to densely populated Haiti and Dominican Republic Tuesday morning (Reuters photo)

Thousands seek shelter as Hurricane Georges plows through Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Hurricane Georges' 110 kph winds plowed a destructive path across Puerto Rico and the northeast Caribbean, spawning tornadoes, turning trees into missiles and killing at least four people.

Georges' powerful thunderstorms flooded hotels and exploded shop and car windows. Monday, flipped small aeroplanes, whisked away satellite dishes and forced many thousands into shelters.

Hundreds of thousands were without water or power.

"The situation is critical," said Mayor Anibal Melendez of the hard-struck eastern resort town of Fajardo, where dozens of homes lost roofs. The storm prevented rescuers from immediately responding to calls for help, and the upscale Conquistador Resort which overlooks the sea in Fajardo sustained extensive damage.

More than 80 per cent of Puerto Rico's 3.8 million people lost electricity and more than 70 per cent had no water, the government said. Countless roads and highways were choked by fallen trees and poles, dangling power lines, antennas, awnings, tin roofs and other debris. The storm denuded many lush mountain areas and made others inaccessible due to flooding.

Swedish PM seeks out red-green majority in parliament

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Social Democratic Prime Minister Goran Persson continued talks Tuesday with the Left party and the Greens to secure a "red-green" majority in parliament to keep his minority government in power.

Persson, whose party came out on top in Sunday's general election, indicated he was prepared to make concessions to his potential allies, in comments to the financial daily Dagens Industri.

"I am not going to enter into talks with the Left party and the Green party without being prepared to listen to them, that would be pointless."

"There must be room for one or two things that they believe are important," he said.

The Social Democrats remain the largest party in the country after the poll with 36.5 per cent of votes and 131 seats, but posted their worst election score in the history of the party.

The Social Democrats are now forced to seek support from at least two other parties in order to pass legislation in parliament.

The Left party won a remarkable 12 per cent of

Police took to the streets of San Juan in force to find the hardest-hit areas and deter looting of damaged stores and businesses. Gov. Pedro Rossello met with federal officials Tuesday to plan a disaster response.

With island residents facing the sobering task of recovery Tuesday, President Clinton declared Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands disaster areas, authorising immediate release of federal recovery aid.

Scores of federal and Red Cross officials mobilised to assess damage, expected to soar well into the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Georges headed for the Dominican Republic and Haiti, where many of that island's 15 million people live in substandard housing that could leave them exposed to the hurricane's fury.

At 8 a.m. (1200 GMT), Georges' centre was about 145 kilometres east of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Hurricane warnings were posted for the southeastern Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos islands and a hurricane watch was in effect in eastern Cuba. Concern was growing even in Florida, where workers put shutters over the windows at Key West City Hall.

One of the most powerful storms to hit the Caribbean

in years, Georges unleashed a landslide near San Juan that killed three people, civil defence officials said. Two people died of heart attacks in shelters, and one person was reported missing in another landslide.

One death was reported in St. Kitts, where 70 per cent of homes were damaged, as were the hospital, airport and police station. A curfew was in effect there to prevent looting, said government spokesman Erasmus Williams.

"We would definitely appreciate assistance," Williams said.

Advance teams from the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency, the FBI and the American Red Cross planned recovery efforts in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Both territories activated National Guard troops to help.

More than 20,000 people huddled in shelters in San Juan, Arecibo, Mayaguez and other Puerto Rican cities, and officials said the figure could rise to 50,000.

Hospitals in several cities reported moderate damage, and three private planes were damaged at San Juan's international airport.

Moving westward across southern Puerto Rico, Georges spawned tornadoes in the central town of Barranquitas and the eastern island of Vieques. Gusts reaching 280 kilometres

were reported in the interior mountains, where damage reports were sketchy.

Georges also caused extensive property damage in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Antigua and other smaller Caribbean islands.

In St. Croix, raging winds bent palm trees to a third of their height, shoved a 15-metre sailboat ashore and destroyed part of the boardwalk.

In Anigua, the storm split open government-built homes and ripped corrugated roofs off hundreds of other houses and wrapped them around trees. "My house gone. Hurricane mash up my life," said Verna McHenry as she surveyed the remains of her home near Bolans.

On the French island of Guadeloupe, a man who tried to take advantage of the storm to escape from jail was shot and killed by guards. France sent a team of 170 civil defence workers to help recovery efforts on the island, where 16,000 people lacked power.

Police stations lost communications in southern Puerto Rico, where Ponce Mayor Rafael Cordero Santiago reported heavy damage.

Searchers braved the storm's driving winds and rain to rescue an unknown number of people from flooded homes, he said.

Four of the workers — two from Bangladesh, one Nigerian, and one Abkhazian — were wounded in the attack. ITAR-TASS said, citing the leader of the U.N. mission, Rasheed Al-Haroun.

Three of the workers were

in Europe, as EU countries continue their process of integration.

"We will be saddled with the weakest government in Europe, depending on an unstable relationship with left-wing factions," said Bildt, whose party won 22.7 per cent of votes.

Bildt said he would consider a vote of no-confidence against the Social Democrats if the party fails to secure a majority.

Observers Tuesday wondered how Persson will manage at an EU summit in Vienna in October if he is forced to collaborate with two anti-EU parties. Sweden is expected to take over the rotating chairmanship of the EU in January 2001.

According to a Gallup poll published Tuesday in the daily Expressen, 44 per cent of Swedes say Persson should try to form a majority with the Left and the Greens, 19 per cent want the party to rely on the support of the Centre, Liberal and Christian Democrat parties, and 17 per cent have called for a "grand coalition" with the opposition Moderates.

The conservative Moderates, the main opposition party headed by former Bosnia civilian High Representative Carl Bildt, have argued that a "green-red" majority in parliament will marginalise Sweden

Indonesia vows to keep up probe into Suharto wealth

JAKARTA (AFP) — A state investigation into ex-President Suharto's wealth will go ahead even though he has repeatedly denied having stashed funds away abroad, a senior minister said Tuesday.

"The attorney general of the Republic of Indonesia will continue with its investigation into the wealth of Pak Haji Suharto," Coordinating Minister for Development Supervision Hartanto Sasrosumarto told a press conference.

He was speaking after a late night meeting with Suharto at his central Jakarta residence Monday, accompanied by Attorney General Andi Ghalib.

Suharto told the team he would assist the investigators "if there is any evidence from anyone that shows he has accounts abroad," Hartanto added.

Attorney General Ghalib however stressed the visit to Suharto's residence was only for a "detailed examination and clarification" of a televised statement to the nation by Suharto that he

was penniless.

"It was not an investigation because up till now we have no evidence or data which points to Suharto as a suspect. The point (of the Monday night session) was just to explain and clarify his statement that he has no accounts, deposits nor shares abroad," Ghalib added.

But the visit was criticised as "unacceptable" by political scientist Affan Gafar.

He told the Suara Pembaruan daily that such a "home visit" showed that President B.J. Habibie and his officials had yet to shed the political culture of paternalism that prevailed under Suharto's rule.

"All citizens are equal in the eyes of the law and the government ... and that means everyone has to answer any summons from government personnel in the field of law enforcement," a former member of the Supreme Advisory Council, Sabam Sirait told the same paper.

Such a home visit may spark speculation of a political or legal compromise, he added.

During the Monday night meeting Suharto repeated that he had no money, stocks or any valuable papers abroad and never held any offshore bank accounts, Hartanto said.

He added Suharto challenged anyone with corroborating evidence to report the name of such banks to the attorney general's office, and he would authorise that particular financial institution to open up the details of the account.

"A letter of authorisation would be drawn up for the attorney general to transfer the existing funds to the Indonesian government, as those funds would not belong to Suharto," Suharto promised according to Hartanto.

The ageing leader, according to Hartanto, defiantly claimed he would take "legal action" against anyone found to have, without his knowledge, put money into an account bearing his name.

Neither Hartanto nor Ghalib elaborated on where the government probe would go from here, saying only they were awaiting information from the public.

Hartanto added Suharto would soon file a report of his financial position as of 1998 to his handpicked successor Habibie.

State Secretary Akbar Tanjung, speaking separately at the presidential palace, said Hartanto and Ghalib had met with Habibie immediately after the Monday night talks with Suharto.

Suharto is alleged to have amassed a fortune during his 32-year rule which ended abruptly on May 21, when he was forced to step down dogged by widespread allegations of corruption and cronyism amid the country's economic crisis.

Habibie last week approved a team, led by Ghalib and helped by the police and the National Audit Board, to question Suharto in person.

French parliament fact-finders to begin sensitive Rwanda visit

KIGALI (AFP) — A parliamentary delegation probing France's role before and during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda was expected in Kigali Tuesday to begin the most sensitive part of its mission.

Two deputies in the team, Bernard Cazeneuve and Pierre Bana, will be in Kigali until Thursday as part of a "fact-finding" tour of the Great Lakes region, which has already taken Bana to Uganda, Tanzania and Burundi.

Cazeneuve and Bana will meet with parliament speaker Joseph Sebarenzi and several ministers and visit a site commemorating the genocide, but President Pasteur Bizimungu and strongman Paul Kagame, the country's vice president and defence minister, have declined to see them.

The panel, dismissed as a "farce" by Rwandan authorities when it was set up in March this year, is tasked with shedding light on France's role in Rwanda and the region from 1990 until the genocide of 1994 in which between 500,000 and 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered.

The aim of the Great Lakes region tour is to gather "every element of information that will be useful to the investigation," panel chairman Paul Quiles said.

The French MPs will Wednesday visit Murambi, in the southwestern Gikongoro district, where French troops were deployed under the controversial Operation Turquoise in 1994.

France had insisted that the operation was purely humanitarian, aimed at pro-

tecting refugees, but the then-rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) opposed it, citing high-level contacts between the French administration and the Hutu government then in Kigali indicating a political bias.

The Tutsi-dominated Kigali government has also accused France of facilitating the flight of Hutu killers to neighbouring then-Zaire.

Cazeneuve and Bana will meet with Minister of the Presidency Patrick Mazimhaka, Foreign Minister Anastase Gasana, Justice Minister Faustin Niziriyayo, the secretary general of the now ruling RPF, Charles Murigande, as well as representatives of an association of genocide survivors.

When the panel was set up, Mazimhaka said it was doubly "useless, because it

already knowingly has the information that it is seeking, (and because) it will not have the right to summon anyone to answer for the responsibility of French troops in the tragedy that happened here."

He added: "It's only a diversion."

Gasana, for his part, advocated a resolution to the "heavy dispute" between the two countries.

After their stay in the Great Lakes region, the French MPs will go to Geneva for talks with U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata.

The panel has already interviewed about 100 French and foreign figures including politicians, ministers, ambassadors, soldiers, academicians and other experts. Its report is due in December.

4 U.N. observers attacked in Abkhazia

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) — Gunmen opened fire on a bus of 10 United Nations workers in Georgia's breakaway Abkhazia region, wounding four, a news agency said Tuesday.

The U.N. military observers were attacked Monday night in the Abkhazian capital of Sukhumi, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

Four of the workers — two from Bangladesh, one Nigerian, and one Abkhazian — were wounded in the attack. ITAR-TASS said, citing the leader of the U.N. mission, Rasheed Al-Haroun.

Three of the workers were

taken to Turkey for medical treatment, though the report did not identify them.

Earlier, Astamur Taniya, press secretary to Abkhazian leader Vladislav Ardzinba, had said that only one of the military observers had been wounded.

Ardzinba called the incident an attempt to destabilise the region. ITAR-TASS reported.

Russia denounced the attack, saying it "proves a pressing need for resolute action on the part of the Georgian and Abkhazian authorities to normalise the situation," the Interfax news agency reported, citing an unidentified source in

Russia's Foreign Ministry.

An investigation into the incident is under way, Interfax reported.

The United Nations keeps a group of military observers in Georgia to monitor the truce between government forces and separatists in Abkhazia.

A U.N. worker from Poland, Maria Magdalena Wewiorska, was shot and killed in July outside her apartment in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi.

Meanwhile, Georgian and Abkhazian leaders began talks Tuesday in Tbilisi, but expressly avoided political debate. The two sides discussed restoring the region's

railroads and energy system, including a natural gas pipeline, said Sergei Bagapsh, who led the Abkhazian delegation.

Georgia and Abkhazia have been locked in a bitter conflict that began soon after Georgia became an independent state in the wake of the 1991 Soviet collapse.

The separatists took control of the province in a 1992-93 war, driving out Georgian soldiers and ethnic Georgians.

Violence has broken out periodically since then despite the presence of Russian peacekeepers in the region.

British tobacco companies sue over EU ad ban

LONDON (AP) — The four top British tobacco companies said Tuesday they have gone to court to fight European Union decisions banning tobacco advertising and sponsorship.

The 15-member EU recently approved measures that would outlaw most tobacco advertising within four years, while banning tobacco sponsorship of major cultural and sporting events by 2006.

The running battle has pitted those who blame cigarettes for killing hundreds of thousands of EU citizens against those who say Formula One racing won't survive in Europe without the backing of tobacco money.

"This is totally unjustified and we will vigorously challenge the basis on which these restrictions are being introduced," said David Swan, chief executive of the Tobacco Manufacturers' Association, the lobbying group for British tobacco.

The companies — British American Tobacco Investments Ltd., Gallaher Ltd., Imperial Ltd. and Rothmans (UK) Ltd. — say any legislation about tobacco advertising or sponsorship is a public health matter that under European law must be decided on a nation-by-nation basis.

EU Health Commissioner Padraig Flynn disagrees.

"We are confident we can

defend ourselves against any legal challenge," said Flynn's spokeswoman, Barbara Nolan. "We're on solid ground."

The British tobacco companies said that while the EU is going too far, they are happy to keep negotiating with the British government over any advertising rules — an area that has previously proven embarrassing for Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Blair was reprimanded in the spring for failing to report that he and his family got a free trip to the 1996 British Grand Prix — funded by the governing body of Formula One. Tobacco companies are the sport's biggest sponsor.

Late last year, two parli-

mentary committees criticised Blair for seeking to exempt Formula One racing from what at the time was still a proposed ban on tobacco sponsorship.

It emerged that Blair's Labour Party had received campaign donations of £1 million (\$1.7 million) from Formula One boss Bernie Ecclestone. The party returned the money.

Britain finally agreed to a deal that will let Formula One continue receiving tobacco money through Oct. 1, 2006.

The tobacco companies filed their lawsuit Monday in Britain's High Court, where they hope to persuade judges to transfer the case to the European Court of Justice.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.
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Washington Watch

The consuming scandal

Dr. James Zogby

THE INDEPENDENT Counsel's (IC) report on the president's affair hit Washington like a hurricane last week, and the storm is not over yet. In fact, once Congress begins its inquiry into the impeachment of the president, the upheaval may go on for months.

While the damage that this situation has done to the president and the nation is evident, its longer-term and broader impact is not yet clear.

This is a dangerous time for the world's superpower to be turned inward in a domestic partisan conflict. The world's economic health is being threatened by the financial crisis in Asia and the continued instability of Russia. At the same time any one of a half-dozen world hot spots could explode into a major problem testing the ability of the United States to provide world leadership.

It would be ideal if the matter of the scandal could be quickly resolved, but it appears that this will not be the case. Ken Starr, the IC, is determined to go forward with the fruits of his four-year and \$40 million inquiry. Likewise, President Clinton is a determined fighter.

Whenever he has been down in his long political career, he has displayed a fierce resolve to fight back. And Congress is so divided on partisan lines that it appears impossible for Republicans not to carry forward this inquiry especially if they believe it will help their election efforts in November.

The moment Starr delivered his report to the Congress, the battle was engaged. It was ironic that at the very moment that Congress was debating whether to make public the sordid details of Starr's report, the President was delivering his most profound apology to a group of clergy, with whom he was having breakfast. The president's confession that he "sinned" and "lied" was carried live on network television.

Commentators differed in their assessment of the president's apology.

Some said it was "too little too late," others felt that it was sincere and significant. This debate was, however, overshadowed, after only a few hours, by the decision of the Congress to make all of the Starr report public. The debate within the congressional committee responsible for this decision was extraordinarily partisan. Democrats were insisting, at the very least, that the president's lawyers get to see the Starr report, which accuses the president of wrongdoing, before it was made public. Republicans, sensing that further embarrassment of the president would serve their agenda, wanted the report out, in full, as soon as it was possible to do so.

Given available new technology the report's release was both immediate and massive. Most major U.S. papers published the entire 445-page document, in full, the very next day. Over 60,000 Internet sites carried the report as well. Never before had one document been made available so quickly to so many. By the next day, Sunday, a national poll indicated that one-third of the American people had seen the Starr report. And, from the public reaction, what they saw was sordid and distasteful.

It is the contention of the IC that the president lied under oath when he testified (during a deposition in the Paula

Jones case) that he "did not have sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky." In an effort to disprove this lie, the IC's report provides graphic detail of actions between Lewinsky and the president — all derived from Lewinsky's words.

There was an irony to the fact that the same Republicans who voted just a short while ago to ban pornography from the Internet, voted to make available to every computer in the United States, what could only be described as a report filled with pornographic detail.

Starr's critics were furious. They charged that the conservative IC padded the report with sex in order to embarrass the president. Despite the fact that the IC's report is only one side of the story and is only about "sex and lies," as one commentator noted, "apparently Starr felt that the more shocking the detail, the more lasting the damage to Clinton." The reaction was swift and predictable. Republican members of Congress expressed outrage, terming the president's behaviour immoral and "illegal." Increasingly, Republican congressmen and candidates for Congress are calling on the president to resign.

Democratic representatives, on the other hand, while also expressing their anger and disgust over the president's actions maintain that the charges against the president, while serious, are not sufficient grounds to remove him from office. While Democratic congressmen are facing intense questioning about the president from the press and their Republican opponents, most have publicly remained firm against impeachment.

The nation's press reaction has divided over similar lines, but a surprisingly large number of newspaper editorials and media commentators have joined the chorus of those saying Clinton should resign. For many years now, the Washington press corps has behaved like the fourth branch of government. And this instance is no exception.

The public opinion reaction, on the other hand, has moved along a different path. Most Americans are clearly offended by the president's behaviour. They indicate that they are ashamed of his actions, but by 2 to 1 they want to see Clinton remain in office. By the same 2 to 1 margin they give the president a positive job rating, do not want him to resign or be removed from office and want the Congress to stop their investigation now.

These divergent views are easy to explain. Politicians are concerned first and foremost with their own elections and power. While some Republican members of Congress, for example, are so motivated by a true sense of morality — others simply see the president's problems as an issue they can exploit for the November elections.

But Republicans are learning that there are some dangers in this strategy. Already two Republican candidates who sought to use television ads decrying the president's lack of morality have been exposed in their local newspapers for their own past sexual misdeeds.

Republicans must also consider the possibility of a backlash. If they push too far and appear to gloat over the president's problems and do not offer any other programme ideas, the public may react negatively.

Democrats are also in a bind. On the one hand they must show anger and disgust with Clinton's actions, but they too can only go so far. While many Democrats in Congress still remember how the president undercut them on issues in the past (agreeing with Republicans on taxes, the budget, welfare reform, NAFTA, etc.), they feel that to totally abandon him now, would only further hurt the Democratic Party and their own chances for reelection in November.

The public reaction requires a more complex explanation. In a sense, the public can't be too disappointed in the president's behaviour, because most Americans already assumed that he was not a moral exemplar.

Most Americans have learned not to look to politicians as role models.

Like movie stars and sports heroes, the images of politicians are fragile media creations, which all too many times have been shattered.

There is, therefore, a hardening of public sentiment coupled with a cynicism and a lowering of expectations. They know that sports and movie stars are not necessarily "good people" — all that is expected of them is that they do their job.

Americans are apparently making a similar judgement about the president with a good economy and a fragile world order. Americans are saying, "leave well enough alone." The majority view is that what the president did is wrong, but not an impeachable crime. They therefore do not want to see any further upheaval or disruption. And they do not want to undo the 1996 election.

If it were up to the public as a whole, this crisis would be resolved with the president having his wrists severely slapped by Congress.

But with Congress having so politicised the situation and the media so enthralled by its own pontificating, it does not seem that the crisis will be so easily put aside.

The danger of course is that politics and the media can combine to create a stampede that, once started, can be impossible to control.

Even at this point, before the full congressional process is underway, all eyes are on the president to see if he can head off this disaster.

Can he still lead? Can his words on issues break through or will they be drummed out by the "scandal?" The president is mounting a determined effort to move in this direction.

Last week he delivered a major address on the global economy and hosted Czech president Vaclav Havel in Washington. The Czech press, attending the two presidents' joint press conference, was dumbfounded by the U.S. press' obsession with the scandal.

Next week the president will attempt to focus on other issues before Congress and on the visit to Washington of Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz. In all of these activities Clinton will be swimming against the media and political stream — trying to change the direction of this current.

Only time will tell if he can succeed and if he can survive.

Active engagement

DESPITE DEPUTIES' fiery statements all governments in the post-1989 democratic era obtained the House vote of confidence and most garnered more than 50 out of 80 votes in favour. That trend is unlikely to change, at least not in the immediate future.

But judging from Parliament interaction with the outgoing government of Abdul Salam Majali and deputies' speeches yesterday, there is a growing dissatisfaction with the way governments handle affairs of state.

One major complaint in deputies' speeches yesterday was about corruption. Governments past and present said they were fighting corruption and taking the corrupt to court. But few deputies and people seem to believe that. There is a growing sense that corruption has become widespread and that it reaches the highest echelons of government. Deputies also seem to link corruption to poverty and unemployment. All these problems require considerable time to address, certainly much longer than the six months grace period that a majority of deputies are willing to give the government before reviewing its policies.

Instead of setting a time frame for the administration to devise solutions to these problems, the House should engage itself and its various standing committees in the process. Whether it is corruption, unemployment, poverty or the dysfunctional civil service, the government will have to take unpopular decisions that only deputies, individually and collectively, can help in explaining to their constituencies and the people at large. That should not mean in any way that parliamentarians should refrain from their main task of monitoring government performance and prodding it to fulfil its pledges of reform.

Whether Prime Minister Fayed Tarawneh and his colleagues secure 40, 50 or 60 votes in their favour is not the issue. Rather it is whether one year from now they will be praised or damned. At the moment they have the confidence of the leadership and the mandate to reform. With the confidence of the people nothing should stand in their way.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Rai's Fahed Fanek said it was too early to judge whether the government has met its commitments with respect to transparency. The government has not, so far, been subjected to any kind of pressure or faced any challenge upon which to base our judgement, he said. The government's statement policy has shut out any hope of discussing the possibility of cancelling or even amending the Press and Publications Law, because it has passed through the constitutional phases, and hence has to be respected by all parties, said Fanek. The point of discussion is now the manner in which the law can be implemented. Whether the government will be stern or flexible, remains to be seen, said Fanek, but judging from certain incidents, there are enough reasons to be pessimistic. He said that in order to show it is a genuine democratic government, it must give the chance to the opposition to express itself. Credibility and national vision are the weapons with which Jordan's media can find its place in the satellite and media age, said the writer.

Al Dustour's Jihad Momani warned about the danger of the coalition between the two main Kurdish factions. The reconciliation meeting between Talabani and Barzani, the two factions' leaders, is a big threat to Iraq's unity and all Arab solidarity, said Momani. The United States has sponsored the whole process in order to partition the northern part of Iraq and strangle the Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Momani said most Arab countries have not paid much attention to the issue out of ignorance or indifference, and some countries have even welcomed the meeting. However, Turkey received assurances from Washington that such a coalition would never endanger its national security. Momani warned that the Kurdish opposition is more dangerous to Iraq than any other foe, because it can conjure up the political will in addition to owning enough weapons and land for the partition of northern Iraq.

As the White House is paralysed, Congress moves to limit IMF payments

By Todd S. Purdum

HE GOES to work, they go to work. He keeps his chin up, they keep their heads down. But nothing is quite the same for President Clinton and his senior aides, advisers and friends these days, and they make little pretence that the White House is other than a shaken, static place, groping for a way to survive.

"He doesn't talk about this," said one long-time aide, speaking like all his colleagues, on condition of anonymity. "I honestly don't know who he's talking to." But, this aide added of the president, "There's now a whole man I've never even met. I don't believe anything any more from him."

Another long-time adviser said: "He's always pretty tough, resolute when we talk," but added, "I try to really avoid saying, 'How are you feeling?'"

One senior aide in a cabinet department, who has been with Clinton since the 1992 campaign, said: "The one time that dominates over there more than anything else is a sense of sadness, especially among what's left of the old guard. They're having a wake for someone who's not dead yet."

Most of all aides acknowledge that no one knows quite what to do about an impeachment process that is rolling along under its own power on Capitol Hill and not susceptible to White House influence.

"It's an oddly powerless time," one senior aide said. "We're passengers on the bus, and someone else is driving the bus."

The daily 8 a.m. staff strategy session led by John Podesta, the deputy chief of staff, usually a scene of jocular intensity punctuated by ironic jerebards from the senior aide Rahm Emanuel, is "recently just grim," according to one aide who can no longer bear to attend, though another who still goes said that some of "the raucous, gallows humour has returned."

But now the laughs in the West Wing come in lieu of tears, when the press office lists the roster of guests on the Sunday talk shows and the line-up invariably boils down to face-offs between Clinton's Republican congressional critics and his Democratic ones, and the practical talk involves making sure the president will not be close enough to reporters to risk unwanted questions.

One administration official summed up the feeling of futility: "There's no great amount of, shall we say, organisation there. What power does this White House have?"

Another senior administration official was even blunter, saying, "There's no White House there."

Robert Reich, Clinton's former labour secretary and friend of 30 years, said on ABC's "Nightline" last week: "We have almost a virtual impeachment, a Potemkin president.

He's going through the motions of being a president, but he doesn't have very much power or authority left."

Penetrating the mood of the president and his inner circle is dicey in the best of times, since the White House is at once a public stage and a place of deep secrets, as the Monica Lewinsky affair itself shows. Now more than ever, insiders keep their own counsel and outsiders are reduced to studying shadows and proffered peeks past the veil.

All that said, aides insist that Clinton's famous capacity for compartmentalising his life has once again come to the fore, and he "takes solace in his work," one aide says. The president keeps to his schedule, raising money for Democratic candidates, touching base with interest groups, campaigning for his policies, like, for example, a patent's bill of medical rights, which he touted in a speech to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers convention here on Thursday.

The president began those remarks by saying how much his wife liked the group, then surprised his speech writers by ad-libbing a riff sympathising with well-meaning bureaucrats who may initially refuse to allow certain medical procedures because they know they are "never going to get in trouble for saying no," a sentiment bound to ring true with a union audience.

"You have to remember that for the last eight months, the White House has been the only place in America where you can have an hour-long conversation about Bill Clinton that's only about policy," one senior aide said of the work of speech writing, scheduling and planning. "It's the eye of the hurricane."

Another aide insisted, "He's paying attention, not just going through the motions." And Clinton is not without a certain rueful sense of humour. When Susan D. Johnson Cook of the President's Advisory Board on Race presented him with a little book called "Too Blessed to Be Stressed" at a ceremony marking the end of the commission's work in the Oval Office on Friday, he replied, "I think I need that."

Still, as Clinton embarks on one more campaign — to stay in office — a looming sense of a long, grim, unavoidable ordeal pervades the place.

"My feelings are like the weather in Oklahoma," one long-time adviser to the president said. "You know, you might have a cold front, or a tornado come through, and then a hot spell and a drought. What makes me low is when I think how long all of this is going to take."

Another outside adviser said that the president understands the risks.

"I think he understands that while these top-line, national poll numbers are fine, that there's a potential problem with the public

and a serious problem on the Hill," this adviser said. "The Republicans are determined to conduct a Chinese water-torture impeachment process. And there's been a slow, slow, slow, but clearly perceptible, change in the polls."

The official White House word is that Clinton well understands the damage he has done to himself and is trying to make amends. But one senior aide said he worried that the president, in telephone calls to Democrats in Congress, was still trying to play down his relationship with Ms. Lewinsky.

This same aide, who told that some other administration officials said Clinton had complained that his anger at Starr prompted him to seek relief with Ms. Lewinsky, exploded in irritation: "Oh, yeah. I forgot. It's all Ken's fault."

So far, no one has quit. But press secretary Mike McCurry is leaving as long planned at the end of the month. Emanuel, who has also long planned to leave, has a new baby and is house hunting in his hometown of Chicago. The chief of staff, Erskine Bowles, who has also long wanted to leave, perhaps to run for

governor in his home state of North Carolina, is said to finally be serious about going home.

Paul Begala, the 1992 campaign veteran, who was among the president's most visible and vocal defectors after Clinton's initial denials last winter, is not leaving, but he has told friends he will no longer appear on television, either.

One outside adviser said that, with the hiring of Gregory Craig as the White House's new damage control point man, and Podesta's continuing efforts, the staff at last has a mechanism for coordinating the supporters it has left, from old friends of Bill around the country to black elected officials.

"They can handle some of the incoming and finally channel it into an outgoing," this adviser said. But he added that the future remained deeply unpredictable.

"I would think there's going to be either a really smart move or a really dumb move by either side that's going to more or less define things," he said. "I just hope it won't be a dumb move by us."

— New York Times

Approve the IMF funding

WHILE THE U.S. economy remains healthy, much of the world is in, or teetering close to, depression. A financial crisis that began in Thailand more than a year ago has spread through Southeast Asia and Korea into Russia. It now threatens Ukraine, Brazil and other countries. Japan remains mired in a deep slump with little prospect of quick recovery. In these circumstances, two things are clear. The U.S. economy cannot remain forever immune if a global depression is approaching; and if such a depression is to be averted, U.S. leadership is a necessary precondition.

In these circumstances, the refusal of the House of Representatives to fully fund the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is reckless. The IMF is essentially the world's lender of last resort, the only institution to which threatened economies can turn in distress. Its coffers are dangerously low, reducing the help it can offer and the credibility of the offers it does make. The Senate has approved \$18 billion in new credits as the U.S. share of an IMF replenishment. But the House approved only \$3.4 billion on Thursday, voting by a 229-to-188 margin not to even allow a vote on increasing that total.

To say that Congress should approve IMF funding is not to endorse everything the IMF has done or to belittle congressional

concerns with the way it operates. A good case can be made that the IMF mishandled the initial stages of the Asian crisis, perhaps aggravating an already dangerous situation. Critics of the IMF's Russia policy likewise can make a credible case. The IMF in general has operated with too much secrecy, and it may well be that given the changes in the global economy new institutions are needed to foster economic stability.

But new institutions cannot be created immediately. Nor can the United States immediately promulgate reform within the IMF, which is a multilateral agency. Yet the financial risks are immediate or close to it. Congress has had months to come up with an IMF bill that balanced its desire for reform with a recognition of its responsibility to provide leadership. It failed to do so.

Now the House is playing politics, holding the IMF bill in reserve as one bargaining chip among many with which to confront the administration as this session draws to a close. That may strike House leaders as a clever gambit. But if South American economies tip into recession in the meantime, taking with them crucial markets for U.S. exporters, what seems clever today will have been revealed to all as foolhardy beyond measure.

— Editorial, The Washington Post

The 1998 Press and Publications Law

The following is an unofficial translation of the Press and Publications Law which came into force on September 1.

Article #1

This law shall be known as the Press and Publications Law of 1998 and shall be effective as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Article #2

The following terms, whenever they occur in the article of this law, shall have the following meaning:

A) A press publication shall include the following:

1) Daily publication: Any publication that is issued on a daily basis under a specific title with a serial number and is distributed to the public.

2) Non-daily publication: Any publication that is issued regularly once a week or over a longer period of time and is distributed to the public.

B) Specialised publication: Any publication that deals with a specific field and is readied for distribution in accordance with its license.

C) News Agency Reports: A report prepared to provide newspapers with news, information, articles, photographs and cartoons.

Journalism: Is the trade of preparing, editing, issuing and distribution of a publication.

Journalist: Any registered member of the Jordan Press Association who practices journalism as a profession in accordance with the law.

Foreign Media correspondents: Any journalist, regardless of his/her nationality, who practices journalism and reports for non-Jordanian mass media or periodicals.

Printing Press: The place as well as the equipment used to produce all kinds and forms of publications excluding typewriters and photocopies that are used for purposes other than publication.

Publishing House: The institution responsible for preparing, producing and sale publications.

Distribution House: The institution responsible for the distribution and selling of publications.

Publication and Distribution House: The institution responsible for both the publishing and distribution.

Book shop: A store that is licensed to sell books, stationary, newspapers, magazines and other publications.

Research and Study Centre: An institution that is responsible for conducting and publishing research and studies and providing consultation on political, social, cultural, economic, humanities and other issues.

Translation House: An institution which conducts translations from one language to another.

Advertising Office: An office that conducts advertising works by producing materials and articles and broadcasts them through any media.

Article #3

Media and printing are free. Freedom is guaranteed for every Jordanian to freely voice his/her opinion verbally or by writing, photography, cartoons and other means of expression.

Article #4

The press freely practices its duty in presenting news, information and commentaries. The press contributes to spreading thought, culture and science within the limits of the law and upholds freedoms, rights and duties and respects the private lives of others.

Article #5

Publications shall respect the truth and refrain from publishing anything that might violate the principles of freedom, national duty, human rights and Arab and Islamic values.

Article #6

The freedom of the press includes:

A) Informing the citizen of developments, ideas and information in all relevant areas.

B) Allowing citizens, parties, associations, cultural, social and economic institutions to express their views, opinions and accomplishments.

C) The right of access to information, news and statistics from various sources that are of concern to citizens and to analyse and print this information as well as to comment on it.

D) The right of the periodical and journalist to withhold the source of published information unless the court decides otherwise during its review of criminal cases, or to protect state security, to prevent crimes or to achieve justice.

Article #7

Ethics of journalism are mandatory for every journalist and include:

A) Respecting other's public freedom, safeguarding their rights and not invading their private lives.

B) Realising that freedom of opinion and expression are granted to both media and citizens.

C) Maintaining balance, objectivity and integrity in presenting articles.

D) Abstaining from publishing anything that will provoke violence or sow division among citizens in any form.

Article #8

Concerned authorities must ensure access to journalists to enable them to examine their programmes, projects and plans and to facilitate the duties of Jordanian statistical and research centres.

Article #9

A) Correspondents of periodicals and foreign media must be Jordanians, Arabs or foreigners who obtained permission from the (Jordan Press) Association to practice after getting approval from the minister to carry out their job.

B) The accreditation of these correspondents is organised under regulations issued for that purpose.

C) Journalists are forbidden from engaging in a working relationship with any foreign party outside the framework of the regulations stipulated in paragraph B of this article of this law.

Article #10

Only journalists are allowed to practise the profession of journalism, including being a correspondent for periodicals and foreign media. With the exception of those whose jobs are confined to writing articles, all others are not allowed to introduce themselves as journalists.

Article #11

A) Any Jordanian and any Jordanian owner of a company has the right to publish a publication.

B) Any registered Jordanian political party has the right to publish its media material.

C) The Council of Ministers, based on the minister's recommendation, grants a licence to issue reports by the following parties: the Jordanian news agency and a non-Jordanian news agency provided it is carried out under a reciprocal basis.

Article #12

Any application submitted for issuing any publication or specialised publication must include the following:

1) Applicant's name, place of residence and address.

2) Name of publication, the place of printing and issuance.

3) Dates of publishing.

4) Field of specialisation.

5) The language of publication.

6) Name of the responsible chief editor.

Article #13

Regardless of what is stipulated in any other legislation, any publication must meet the following capital criteria before obtaining approval to issue:

1) The capital of a daily publication must not be less than JD500,000.

2) The capital of a non-daily publication must not be less than JD100,000.

3) The capital of a specialised publication must not be less than JD5,000.

4) Any daily or non-daily publication which any political party wishes to publish is excluded from the minimum capital stipulated in Paragraph A and B of this article of this law.

Article #14

The following are excluded from capital conditions as mentioned in article 13 of this law: specialised publications issued by ministries and official departments, universities and private foundations that contribute to public welfare at the recommendation of the minister.

Article #15

All institutions mentioned in article 15 of this law have to have a responsible director who meets the following conditions:

1) Should be Jordanian with full time residence in Jordan.

2) Should not be convicted of either a misdemeanor or a felony related to dishonourable and immoral acts.

3) Should be a full-timer as the responsible director and cannot manage other institutions.

4) Should have adequate academic qualifications or experience that suits the needs of the institution which he will manage in line with regulations to be issued by the minister for this purpose.

Article #16

All institutions mentioned in article 15 of this law have to have a responsible director who meets the following conditions:

1) Should be Jordanian with full time residence in Jordan.

2) Should not be convicted of either a misdemeanor or a felony related to dishonourable and immoral acts.

3) Should be a full-timer as the responsible director and cannot manage other institutions.

4) Should have adequate academic qualifications or experience that suits the needs of the institution which he will manage in line with regulations to be issued by the minister for this purpose.

Article #17

A) The Council of Ministers, in response to recommendations from the minister, will issue its decision regarding the request to licence a press publication within 30 days from the date of the submission of the application and after the request meets all conditions. The applicant must be informed of this decision during a maximum period of 15 days from the date of making the decision.

Article #18

B) The minister must make a decision regarding the licensing application for a specialised publication or any of the institutions mentioned in article 15 of this law in a period not exceeding 30 days from the date of the

submission of the application with all relevant materials. The applicant has to be informed of the decision in a period not exceeding 15 days from the date of issuance.

Article #19

Considering conditions stated in this law, licences for issuing a publication are granted to its owner, who in turn can, and with the acceptance of the council of ministers, relinquish it fully or partially provided the following conditions are met:

A) The seller and the buyer have to notify the minister of the desire to relinquish 30 days before the date of relinquishing.

B) The buyer has to meet conditions stipulated in this law that allow him/her to own the publication either fully or partially.

C) Both parties should provide the department with a copy of the relinquishing agreement as registered with the concerned parties.

D) The sale of personal shares in public shareholding companies that issue publications are excluded from the provisions of this article of this law.

Article #20

A) The license of a periodical is considered null and void under the following conditions:

1) If no publication is issued within six months from the date of granting the license.

2) If a daily publication is halted for three continuous months.

3) If a non-daily publication, which comes out regularly every week, stops issuing 12 consecutive issues.

4) If a non-daily publication, which comes out regularly in over a week, stops issuing four issues in a row.

5) If the owner relinquishes it fully or partially in line with provisions of article #18 of this law.

6) If it breaches the licensing conditions, including the content of its specialisation without getting prior approval from the minister on condition that two warnings against it have been issued for violations it made.

B) Publications issued by registered political parties are excluded from conditions mentioned in paragraph A of this article of this law.

Article #21

The responsible chief editor can refuse to print the correction mentioned in article 27 of this law in the following situations:

A) If the publication has already corrected the information or the article in a clear and precise manner.

B) If the correction was signed under a pseudo name, was received from an unconcerned party or was written in a language not the same as the language in which the article appeared.

C) If the content of the reply or the correction violates the law or contradicts public morals.

D) If the correction arrived several months after the date of the publishing of the article.

Article #22

The owner of the publication must publish his name, the name of the chief editor, the place and date of issuance, subscription fees and the name of the printing press clearly in an obvious place. The manager must be informed of any changes or adjustments that take place in a period not exceeding 15 days from the date of change or adjustment.

Article #23

A) The editor in chief of every publication must meet the following conditions:

1) Should be a journalist.

2) A Jordanian resident with full-time residency in Jordan.

3) Worked in the journalism profession for a minimum of eight years and must be a member of the association for at least three years.

4) Must not be the chief editor of another publication.

5) Must be proficient in the written and spoken language of the publication he is responsible for, and if he/she to head a multi-lingual publication, he/she shall be proficient in the main language of the publication and have sufficient knowledge of other languages.

6) Has never been convicted of a crime that forced him/her to stop writing.

B) Paragraph A of this article of this law is applicable to the responsible chief editor of a publication that is issued by a political party with the exception of what is mentioned in provisions one and three of this article of this law.

C) The chief editor is responsible for what is published in the publication. The chief editor, together with the journalist who wrote the article, is responsible for the article.

D) The publication cannot have more than one chief editor.

Article #24

A) The chief editor loses his title under the following conditions:

1) If he/she resigns.

2) If he/she does not meet any of the conditions mentioned in article #23 of this law.

B) If the position of the responsible chief editor is vacant and if he/she is absent without any reason, then the owner of the publication can designate someone to carry out his/her duties for a maximum of two months provided he/she meets the necessary criteria while the manager has to be notified.

Article #25

The following must be applicable to the chief editor of a specialised publication:

1) He/she must be Jordanian.

2) Should hold an academic degree directly related to the publication's area of specialisation or to have gained five years of accredited experience that is accepted by the minister based on the recommendation of the director.

3) He/she should not be convicted of a misdemeanor, felony or a crime that tarnished his/her honour or public morals.

Article #26

A) The specialised publication is prohibited from turning articles that fall outside its line of specialisation or change anything that is not within its field without prior approval from the minister based on a recommendation from the manager.

B) Every specialised publication must provide the department with three copies of the issues when it is published.

Article #27

A) If a newspaper prints a news item that is not correct or an article that contains incorrect information on the person involved in the article, the person at stake has the right to reply to the news item or the article or to ask for a correction, and the chief editor should print it for free a day after he/she receives either the reply or the correction. This has to be published in the same place where the questioned news item or the article was printed.

B) If a publication publishes an incorrect article or wrong information in a report dealing with public interest, the chief editor must publish a free correction in the same place or must print the correction he receives from the party concerned in the same place where the questioned news item or article was printed.

C) Both paragraph A and B of this article of this law are applicable to non-Jordanian publications that are distributed in the Kingdom.

Article #28

The responsible chief editor can refuse to print the correction mentioned in article 27 of this law in the following situations:

A) If the publication has already corrected the information or the article in a clear and precise manner.

B) If the correction was signed under a pseudo name, was received from an unconcerned party or was written in a language not the same as the language in which the article appeared.

C) If the content of the reply or the correction violates the law or contradicts public morals.

D) If the correction arrived several months after the date of the publishing of the article.

Article #29

If the party responsible for a publication that is issued outside the Kingdom refuses to run the correction according to article 27 of this law, then the director can prevent the publication from entering the Kingdom for a minimum of two weeks, and the minister can prolong the period after coordinating with the director.

Article #30

A) The chief editor cannot publish any article by any person under a pseudo name unless the author's real name is given to the chief editor.

B) If a publication carries a report or information relating to a certain party in return for a fee, the publication should state clearly and frankly that the item is promotional material.

Article #31

A) The owner of a bookshop, a distribution or publishing house must submit to the director two copies from every publication that enters the Kingdom for authorisation before it is distributed or sold.

B) The director may prevent the publication from entering the Kingdom if it contains material that violates this law.

Article #32

Each publication must carry the name of the author, the publisher and their addresses as well as the name of the printing house where it was printed and the date of printing.

Article #33

Articles of the law dealing with publications whose imports are banned are not applicable to government institutions, universities and scientific research centres but they must obtain prior approval from the director before they bring the material into the Kingdom and the publications have to be placed in an area restricted to scientific research.

Article #34

The owner of the printing house or its manager should observe the following:

A) Keep a register in which the names of the publication and the number of copies are recorded.

B) Keep a register to continuously record titles of printed publications as well as the name of its owners and the number of copies printed.

C) He/she should show the register to the director or whoever he/she designates if asked to do so.

D) He/she should provide the department with two copies of any non-periodical publication before it is distributed.

Article #35

A) Any one who wishes to print a book in

the Kingdom has to submit two copies of the draft book to the department before its printing starts. The director has the authority to refuse printing if the book contains material that violates the law provided he/she informs the author within a month from the time the draft copy was presented.

B) The director has the authority to revoke approval he/she grants for any publication or manuscript if the author violates conditions of its release by adding or dropping anything, and the director should confiscate all copies.

Article #36

A) The owner of a printing house or its manager must not print material which is prevented from being published, printed, distributed or sold and from printing any unlicensed publication.

B) Must not print any book, works of art or any material without written permission from its owner.

Article #37

A) A publication cannot publish any of the following:

1) Anything that disparages the King and Royal family members.

2) Any information on the number of the Jordan Armed Forces, its artillery, ammunition and bases as well as its movements unless authorised by an authoritative official or source in the Jordan Armed Forces. A publication is also banned from printing any news items, cartoons or comments that might harm the Jordan Armed Forces or the security forces.

3) Any information that may infringe upon the independence of the judicial system.

4) Any information disparaging to any of the religions or religious sects whose freedom (of worship) is guaranteed by the Constitution.

5) Any information that harms national unity, encourages crime or sows seeds of envy, hatred and divisions among members of the society.

6) Any information that harms the dignity, personal freedom or the reputation of individuals.

7) Any articles or information that slander heads of state of Arab, Islamic and friendly nations, heads of diplomatic missions and their accredited staff on a reciprocal basis.

8) Anything that promotes moral corruption or perversion.

9) Anything that may contain wrong information or rumours.

10) The details of secret (closed) sessions held in Parliament without authorisation.

11) State secrets and confidential state documents in line with the law.

12) Information or anything that might shake confidence in the national currency.

13) Advertisements promoting medicines and medical supplies without authorisation from the Ministry of Health.

14) Anything that might instigate strikes, riots or illegal public gatherings.

It is forbidden to import any publication that contains anything that violates articles of this law regarding the stated prohibitions.

Article #38

Any quoted media journalism material that is used is treated as the original material.

Article #39

A) A publication is prohibited from publishing material that is related to an ongoing investigation into any case or crime that has taken place in the Kingdom unless authorised by the public prosecution.

B) Minutes of court proceedings shall not be published before a final ruling is issued except if permission is obtained from the court.

C) Paragraph A applies to correspondents of foreign media and punishments mentioned in paragraph C of article #47 are applicable to them.

Article #40

The owner of any publication, its responsible chief editor, its managing editor, reporter or columnist cannot — because he/she owns the publication or is affiliated with it — accept any financial grant or aid from any Jordanian or non-Jordanian party.

Article #41

Centres of study and research or polling centres and anyone who works for them are prohibited from accepting any aid, grants or financial help from Jordanian or non-Jordanian parties excluding funds for joint projects, studies and research that are approved by the minister.

Article #42

A) The Court of First Instance is the specialised court that reviews all crimes committed in violation of this law and has to give all cases priority status.

B) In cases of the chief editor and author of any article are held legally responsible for any periodical crimes and are considered as actual criminals. The owner of the publication is also responsible for personal rights resulting from the crime and money matters of the court but he is not convicted of anything unless it is proven that he was an accomplice to the crime.

C) In non-periodical crimes the case is held against its author as the actual criminal and the publisher as an accomplice, if these two are unknown the owner and manager of the printing press are both legally responsible.

Article #43

The Attorney General conducts the investigation into any violation of the articles of this law

out of a personal initiative, in line with notification issued by the director or the specialised official body or from a complaint filed by the person who was directly harmed by that violation.

Article #44

The owners of the printing press, publishing and distribution houses and studies and research centres as well as the polling centre are considered jointly responsible for the personal rights and the legal fees charged for their employees in press cases in line with this law.

Article #45

The court which made the ruling orders the accused to print the final verdict in full and for free or to run a summary of it in the first issue of the periodical after being informed of the verdict and in the same place where the article in question was printed. The court can also decide on publishing the verdict in two other newspapers if it sees a necessity and at the expense of the accused.

Article #46

A) If the chief editor violates paragraph A and B of article 27 of this law, then a case can be filed by the director or the party that was hurt by the article.

B) If the publication that is issued abroad violates the provisions of paragraph B of article 27 of this law, then the director can file a lawsuit against it.

Article #47

A) If the publication violates the provisions of paragraph A of article 20 or any of those mentioned in article 40 and 41, they have to pay a penalty not less than double the amount that was received.

B) If the owner of the periodical fails to implement the provisions of paragraph B of article 20 he/she has to pay a penalty that does not exceed JD 500. In case of continued failure to settle, the court can order the suspension of the publication for any period it deems fit.

C) If the periodical publishes anything that violates provisions of article 37 and 39 of this law, then it is punished by a minimum fine of JD 5,000 and a maximum fine of JD 10,000. This does not prevent initiation of legal action in accordance with other laws.

D) The minimum penalty can be doubled to the maximum if violations of paragraphs A, B, C continue.

Article #48

A) If the accused violates article #45 of this law, he/she is fined a minimum JD100 and a maximum of JD1,000 in addition to publishing the verdict at his expense.

B) Anyone who brings with him into the Kingdom illegal publications or contributes to its distribution is fined a maximum of JD1,000 in addition to seizing copies of the publication.

C) Any other violation of this law that is not punishable in accordance with articles of the law shall be punished with a maximum of JD1,000.

Article #49

Anyone who published a periodical or illegally practised any job specified in paragraph A of article #15 is fined a minimum of JD5,000 and a maximum of JD10,000.

Article #50

The court decides on suspending the publication while it hears the case and for the period of time it deems necessary or if it decides that such a move is in the benefit of national interest and national security.

REUTERS REUTERS
The Business of Information

banks)... My view is you must open your market," he

The governor said economic policy "faults" included the fact that salaries accounted for more than half of total projected budget expenditure of 4.362 billion dinar (\$14.36 bil-

Some 95 per cent of Kuwaitis in the workforce are employed by the gov-

Kuwaitis generous benefits. Kuwait has detailed studies to tackle economic woes, like rationalising the use of heavily-subsidised basic services. But the required changes

The prescribed cures should also include ending the state's total control of the economy, handing the private sector and promising investment opportunities

The problem is that these (reforms) require legislation and this is a sensitive point for parliament members," he added.

Kuwait, a WTO member, would be forced to open its banking sector by 2003 to foreign institutions although it has the right to

Kuwait has two deficit figures because, the state is obliged by law to deposit 10 per cent of total revenue in a fund managed by Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA). State-owned KIA runs a portfolio of more than \$50 billion mainly invested abroad.

Sheikh Salem argued that in years of deficit the state should not inject the 10 per

"There are other financing instruments available, like domestic borrowing," said the governor, who had

the governor who had vowed never to turn again to international markets after Kuwait repaid a jumbo \$5.5 billion loan to pay for some 1991 Gulf war costs.

Energy			* JOD Cross Rates			
Commodity	Last	Delivery	Currency	Buy	Sell	
Coffee (c/lbs)	102.67	Spot	US Dollar	0.708	0.710	
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1944	Spot	GB Sterling	1.1867	1.1926	
Sugar (\$/ton)	214.2	Spot	DE Mark	0.4177	0.4198	
Wheat (\$/ton)	101	Spot	CH Franc	0.5074	0.5095	
Soya (c/lbs)	25.95	Spot	JP Franc	0.1246	0.1262	
Tea (stg/kg)	125	Spot	FR Yen	0.6249	0.6276	
Barley (\$/bsh)	40	Spot	NL Guilder	0.3704	0.3723	
Rice (\$/ton)	0	Spot	IL Lira	0.4228	0.4243	

MR. OMAR SHAHIN and **Mr. Waheb Al Awamleh** are the lucky winners of the weekend trips to London! The two gentlemen won a British Airways Ticket Amman-London-Amman, in addition to a free weekend accommodation in London at an Inter-Continental Hotel and The Forum Hotel.

The draw took place Monday 14th September 1998 at **THE TERRACE** of Hotel Inter-Continental Jordan. This is part of the summer Terrace promotion organised by Hotel Inter-Continental Jordan in cooperation with British Airways.

Mr. Sad Jaber, Sales Manager of British Airways Jordan, attended the draw together with Mr. Tareq Nasser, Sales Manager of Hotel Inter-Continental Jordan

THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN

"This stuff is health food—it gives me the willpower to resist pizza and fried chicken."

JUMBLE®

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LIPUP □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

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EKQUA □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

UNRICH □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

NATQUI □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Ans: A "□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □" (Answers Monday)

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argleton

We have room for everybody

IDEALLY SUITED TO TRANSPORT A JURY.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans: A "□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □" (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PLUSH BOOTY POPLIN TOUCHY

Answer: What's the mystery writer?

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Drop in share prices blamed on high interest rates, liquidity shortage and weak performance of companies

**** STOCK BROKERS** at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) attributed the decline in share prices of many Jordanian companies to cash liquidity shortages, high bank interest rates and weak performance of the firms. Noting that share prices have declined to below JD1 and, in some cases, to less than JD0.500, some brokers blamed mismanagement at some companies and high borrowing for the drop in share prices.

Hisham Shawahin, a financial expert at the Arab Cooperation Company for Financial Investment, said the new companies did not start production. He also said that many investors were not able to settle the full payment of their subscriptions which were bought on an instalment basis. As such, these investors were forced to sell some of their shares at low prices to be able to cover the instalments that were due.

According to Shawahin, the market cannot absorb the high number of companies and, as such, the flotation of shares was unorganised. "Some companies were forced to sell shares in auction to cover their need for cash liquidity," he added.

Ghazi Abu Dayyeh, manager of the Jordan Gulf for Financial Investments, saw the closure of markets in neighbouring countries to local companies as one of the reasons for drop in share prices. Furthermore, he saw the market overburdened by the number of companies in a certain sector.

Abu Dayyeh said high interest rates imposed by banks are negatively affecting the financial results of the firms and, hence, the fall of share prices. "Shortage of liquidity in the stock market has reduced demand for shares and, as a result, they are being sold at low prices," he added.

Sameh Jaabari, manager of Samir and Sumeh Bros. for Investments, said low profits and lack of sufficient markets for the Jordanian companies are the main reasons for low share prices. He explained that local companies depend on outside markets due to the small size of the Jordanian market. In addition, the prices of Jordanian products are relatively high outside and that restricts their competition with other products. This leads to lower profitability, he said.

Jaabari indicated that the cash liquidity shortage and the high interest rate on certificates of deposits have buried investors away from investing in the AFM.

According to an investor, many people lost most of their capitals in the AFM during the past two or three years. "Shares of many companies were valued at JD1 and now they are at the 200 fils level because the issuance bulletin was misleading," he stressed (Al Dustour).

Startling depths of Japan's economic crisis begin to emerge

TOKYO (AFP) — The startling extent of Japan's economic crisis is only just beginning to emerge, with even once-unthinkable blue chips shaken to their foundations in the face of deepening losses.

Just a few months ago the cream of Japan's firms were predicting their denied profits would bounce back into shape this year.

But giants like Sony Corp., Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd and Hitachi Ltd., once a bedrock of strength for investors, are now staring at grim, often red, balance sheets. "Corporate profits everywhere are down. There is nothing positive out there," said Peter Wolff, senior analyst at ING Barings Japan.

Wave after wave of firms are warning they will take losses this year or drastically cut back their profits, a clear sign they badly underestimated the severity of the nation's worst postwar recession.

At the same time Asia's financial crisis is deepening, with many nations in the region slipping into recession and some, like Malaysia, fighting with free market economies to insulate themselves.

"This is the biggest crisis since the beginning of our company," Hitachi's president Tsutomu Kanai said last week, as he announced Japan's largest electric machinery maker would suffer its first loss since the war.

Hitachi, rated high quality "Aa3" by the ratings agency Moody's Investors Service, will take a staggering 250 billion yen (1.85 billion) group net loss due to the collapse in microchip prices.

Even the powerhouse Sony, which does so much of its business overseas it has barely felt the slump in Japan, is slowing down.

In the three months to June it struggled to raise earnings, pushing up pre-tax profit by just 0.2 per cent. Not even the video success of the blockbuster "Men in Black" could help revenues.

Sony's share price reflects this turnaround in its fortunes; it has lost a quarter of its value since early summer when the firm announced record profits for last year.

Sony's rival Matsushita took a heavier hit in the quarter. Profit before tax was down 54.5 per cent in the three months, hit by the Asian slump.

"You can take some solace from the fact that people are becoming a more realistic. Things are still very ugly for Japan," said Chris Calderwood, economist at Jardine Fleming Securities.

Companies like optics specialist Nikon Corp. and truck-maker Hino Motors Ltd. are warning of losses.

Others like Omron Corp., the world's largest control components maker, and Advantest Corp., a major semiconductor tester producer, said they face

heavy profit falls. Bankruptcies are mounting.

Many firms blame not just the slump at home but the deepening economic problems across Asia and the world.

"The Japanese economy will be in even deeper trouble if both domestic and external demand decline simultaneously," said Susumu Kato, economist at Barclays Capital in Tokyo.

"There is a growing risk that the liquidity and economic crises affecting Asia, Russia and Latin America have all but demolished hopes of balanced global expansion against a background of high growth among the developing nations," Barclays Capital forecasts Japan's economy will shrink by 0.9 per cent in the year to next March, for the second consecutive year.

"Since Japan cannot possibly isolate itself completely from the impact of fluctuations in the global economy in the future, the current recession is likely to last longer," Kato said.

The Japanese government decided last month to throw a 40 trillion yen (\$284 billion) lifeline to small firms suffering from a tightening credit crunch, officials said.

Tokyo will tell local government-owned credit guarantee associations to set up a special credit line of 20 trillion yen to back lending to small firms by financial institutions, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiromu Nonaka said.

The new credit line means the municipal associations will be able to boost loans they can guarantee by 30 trillion yen until March 2000. If the borrowing companies fail, the associations would repay the loans to banks.

The government also plans to expand loans by state-run financial institutions such as the Small Business Credit Insurance Corp., setting up another credit line of 20 trillion yen, Nonaka told a news conference.

The measures, approved at a

cabinet meeting, take effect October 1.

Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi said the scheme was "very significant" in opening up funds to small and medium-sized firms, the backbone of the Japanese economy.

To allow for the expansion of credit lines, the government would provide subsidies of 200 billion yen to the prefectural credit guarantee associations and inject 800 billion yen into the Small Business Credit Insurance Corp.

Yoichi Ito, senior economist at Daiwa Institute of Research, said the measure was nothing more than "backward-looking" damage control of banks' past management failure.

"Banks are now making up for their failure to reduce bloated lending even after the collapse of the speculative bubble economy" which peaked in the late 1980s, he said.

The continued loans had allowed "companies that would otherwise have been too weak

to survive manage to be afloat until today," he said.

Ito said the government move was "a makeshift economic measure which is partly aimed at appeasing small business people's anger at the use of taxpayers' money to salvage big ailing banks."

But he admitted Tokyo had to "enhance pump-priming in order not to trigger a global economic crisis originated in Japan."

Yotaka Toyoshima, an economist at Tokyo Research Institute, said Japan "should carry out whatever it can do quickly, no matter whether the planned sums prove to be enough."

"While proceeding with schemes to reform the economic structure in large, the government needs to provide operating funds to small enterprises," he said, adding they were "in deep trouble."

is at 22/09/98 16:30

ITL	NLG	FFR
1662.80	1.8982	5.8671
988.00	1.1278	3.2961
2800.01	3.1595	9.8601
1196.46	136.56	4.1701
12.29	140.28	4.3201
1270.80	1.4691	4.3201
676.02	11.40	3.2971
33.58	33.5800	

AED	LBP	GBP
3.6728	1511.00	1.4801
5.1003	2131.17	1.4801
0.98	402.87	0.9801
9.74	4008.17	0.9801
1.01	415.11	0.9801
12.08	4970.39	0.9801
2.4507	411.40	0.9801
1.0788	443.69	0.9801

encies

GBP	CHF	JPY
0.18823	0.37018	36.8001
0.16158	0.37805	36.8001
1.95236	4.56921	44.8001
1.57431	3.88324	30.8001
1.188	2.76	27.0001

ibor Fixing

3	6	12
8.8000	6.4411	5.2001
7.4083	7.2830	7.2830
0.4219	0.4670	0.4670
3.4888	3.5705	3.5705
1.4883	1.6211	1.6211
3.5313	3.5742	3.5742
4.9770	4.4810	

High	Low	Prk
7986.8	7867.34	7903.2
1033.89	1022.91	1022.91
5124.1	5013.2	4981.1
13871.5	13521.1	13811.1
3451.6	3338.84	3342.6
4604.7	4529.51	4610.1

Cross Rates

currency	Buy	Sell
Dollar	0.078	0.078
Swelling	1.1867	1.186
2 Mark	0.4177	0.418
1 Franc	0.5074	0.508
1 Franc	0.1248	0.125
P Yen	0.5249	0.525
Guilder	0.3704	0.371
L Lira	0.4228	0.423

Source: Central Bank of Jor.

TERRACE!

lucky winners of the weekly Ticket at Amman-London at an Inter-Comet

TERRACE! in Hotel the notion organised by the attended the draw in mental Jordan

By Glasbergen

th food—it gives r to resist pizza chicken.

HAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Amos and Kate Apple

IDEALLY SUITED TO TRANSPORT A JURY.

Now arrange the circles letter form the surprise answer as be guessed by the above cartoon

BOOTHY PORLIN TOUR

system whilst round in the A LOT OF PLOTS

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a challenging day, to say the least. The moon's in Scorpio, bringing out your aggressive side. Scorpio and Aries have different ways of controlling and dominating, so there's a bit of a crash when both conditions are in effect. Think of it more as a competition than a danger, and you're more likely to succeed.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) The good news is that you could have a partner helping you with some of your more difficult chores. The bad news is that this person may want to help by telling you what to do. If you're going to be led, make sure it's in the direction you want to go.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You'll be able to concentrate a little easier than usual. You tend to be scattered, going off in eight different directions at once. You're very creative, but it sometimes takes you too long to get anything accomplished. Today, accomplishment is your major theme. So settle down and make things happen.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) Do you have to share your private space with the whole family? You need a little nook you can call your own, someplace where you can relax undisturbed, or disturbed by only the people you want disturbing you. If you don't already have a place like that, figure out how to make one.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Something needs your attention. A decision must be made. Well, you don't have to make it right now. If you do, you're liable to make a big mistake. Somebody's pushing you, not in a direction you want to go. Hold off until you know as much as the other person does, if not more.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Today and tomorrow, the moon will be in Scorpio. During this phase, you learn a little more quickly than usual. That Scorpio energy helps you concentrate your attention. You're pretty good at doing that anyway, but now, you're borderline awesome. Ignore distractions as they pop up and focus on what you're trying to learn.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) The sun's in your sign, and it feels great! The moon has gone into Scorpio, however, and Scorpio won't let you sit still. Scorpio is real high energy, very decisive. Right now, it's pulling you to make some big financial decisions. You've been thinking about it long enough. Act now.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You're in a very powerful position. You may decide that your role during this next phase is to be the decision-maker, and you could be right. You'll be surprised also to find that some of the decisions are ones you've avoided making. You didn't think there were any of those, but they're liable to come up.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You're feeling friendly and outgoing, but consider the consequences before you speak too freely. Make sure you've got your facts right, and pay attention to how the information is going to play. Somebody who's listening could have a hidden agenda. If your action are going to cause a reaction, make sure it's the one you want.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Once you and your friends agree on a course of action, it'll be easy to talk others into going along. Don't bother with all the details. Just focus on the objective you'll achieve and when you'll achieve it. With enough conviction, you'll get your point across and make your sale.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) For the next few weeks, you'll notice you have a better sense of humour. You know everything will work out somehow. If you're in a down mood right now, no big deal. You'll be up again soon. Remember that today when you clash with an obstinate older person, and both of you will get through in much better shape.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Opportunities are opening up. It's as if you're in a candy store and you want everything you see. You can't have it all. Some of it might not be good for you, and all of it would be a disaster. You'd make yourself sick. Avoid that today by focusing on your goal. Once that's clear, the proper choices will be obvious.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

Wall Street stocks slip

NEW YORK (AFP) — Wall Street stocks reversed an initial upswing Tuesday morning in New York, with the Dow Jones industrials down 31.41 points — or 0.4 per cent — to 7,901.84 points by 1:28 p.m. (1728 GMT).

The market remained thin, however, due to observance of the Jewish New Year holiday. Rosh Hashanah only some 336 million shares changed hands by midday.

Traders were awaiting news from a Tuesday morning meeting between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi. The two leaders were expected to discuss Japan's economic problems and their global effects.

While the Clinton-Obuchi meeting took place at the Rockefeller family residence in upstate New York, the United Nations opened its General Assembly of world leaders at U.N. headquarters in New York City Tuesday.

New York share prices initially were buoyed by upward moves overnight on Asian and European stock exchanges; but later in the morning the U.S. stocks fell back, losing their initial gains and slipping below Monday's close.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET															
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHIBSANI															
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607172															
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 22/09/1998															
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JO	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE					
S 355.500	170.000	ARAB BANK	18.1	9.0	20	390	86180	220.00	221.00	1.00					
S 1.970	1.620	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	13.3	4.27	6	3375	5554	1.55	1.64	0.01					
VS 5.100	3.000	CAIRO AMMAN BANK	11.8	2.63	1	100	285	3.00	2.85	-0.15					
VS 3.300	1.010	BANK OF JORDAN	8	0.00	2	330	329	3.01	1.00	-0.01					
S 2.680	1.550	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	11.1	6.56	2	1200	1096	1.58	1.58	0.00					
S 6.510	2.610	THE HOUSING BK.	18.3	3.47	55	24050	70033	2.97	2.88	-0.09					
S 3.450	1.760	JOR. HUMANIT. BANK	8	0.00	2	592	1059	1.79	1.80	0.01					
S 8.70	560	JOR. GULF BANK	9	0.00	2	2100	1176	5.56	5.56	0.00					
S 3.910	1.690	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.4	0.00	11	15545	26427	1.69	1.70	0.01					
S 1.870	1.30	BEIT AL-HILAL (SIBTWA)	2.5	0.00	2	750	145	7.12	7.12	0.00					
S 1.850	1.600	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	8	0.00	1	1800	1206	1.68	1.67	-0.01					
BANK SECTOR TOTALS											INDEX: 289.12	%CHG: -0.02	106	50232	194690
2.850	1.760	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	7.4	9.43	4	2850	7553	2.65	2.65	-					
2.200	2.100	PHILADELPHIA INSUR.	17.3	0.00	1	3000	6450	1.15	2.15	-					
2.350	1.800	ARAB LIFE INSUR.	9.5	0.00	4	1000	1985	1.98	1.99	0.01					
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS											INDEX: 126.52	%CHG: +0.05	9	6850	15988
S 2.240	1.430	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.5	5.65	8	4650	6817	1.49	1.46	-0.03					
1.360	760	NATL. PORTFOLIO	29.5	0.00	4	1450	1073	7.75	7.74	-0.01					
1.120	680	REAL ESTATE INV.	14.3	0.00	1	475	475	70	73	0.03					
590	270	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	9	0.00	12	47031	12913	2.70	2.78	0.01					
S 1.480	1.060	MID. EAST HOTELS	9	0.00	1	1000	1090	1.09	1.09	0.00					
S 4.600	1.800	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	9.7	0.00	2	700	1365	1.95	1.95	-					
1.000	870	SARFA EDUCATION	20.6	0.00	1	200	178	89	89	-					
1.830	1.060	UNIFIED CO.	5.0	9.73	3	650	735	1.13	1.13	-					
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS											INDEX: 106.19	%CHG: -0.29	32	56331	24645
3.880	1.840	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	11.3	5.79	2	15000	28500	1.91	1.90	-0.01					
11.250	10.060	JOR. PETROL REFINERY	10.2	8.43	24	7017	73822	10.55	10.55	-					
1.670	1.050	INDUSTRIAL COM. AGR.	66.8	0.00	7	690	777	1.12	1.13	0.01					
7.350	5.500	JOR. WORTZED MILLS	7.5	3.51	1	5500	21350	5.80	5.70	-0.10					
S 5.740	2.400	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	7.4	2.78	16	8826	22187	2.70	2.70	-					
S 5.590	1.100	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	4.9	8.93	2	500	560	1.13	1.12	-0.01					
2.940	2.650	JORDAN DAIRY	6.0	10.29	13	300	810	2.70	2.70	-					
6.350	4.700	DAR ALDIAH DIV. INV.	6.5	6.67	1	200	1082	5.49	5.41	-0.08					
2.980	1.700	ARAB ALUM. IND.	12.9	14.37	2	1800	3130	1.73	1.74	0.01					
1.470	1.150	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	14.0	4.7	2	250	318	1.28	1.27	-0.01					
700	390	SAMIR INVEST.	9	0.00	3	2000	865	4.45	4.43	-0.02					
S 1.260	530	UNIV. MOON. INDUS.	10.7	8.96	2	1000	670	67	67	-					
920	480	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	9	0.00	19	8950	4498	4.49	4.51	0.02					
1.600	1.200	NATL. CHLORINE	8.7	8.06	1	100	124	1.24	1.24	-					
1.080	600	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	9.0	15.63	6	13550	8672	6.64	6.64	-					
S 1.210	910	INTEL. TOBACCO	7.2	5.66	19	18960	19503	1.04	1.04	-					
S 1.220	850	UNION CH. 6 VEG.	10.4	9.00	3	2000	1080	35	34	-0.01					
890	660	JORDAN STEEL	9.6	8.14	5	9175	7890	87	86	-0.01					
730	580	NAT. ALUMINIUM	33.7	0.00	5	1900	1292	68	68	-					
670	530	MID. EAST COMPLEX	10.0	0.00	3	6500	3323	55	55	-					
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS											INDEX: 77.96	%CHG: -0.20	144	117749	215386
GRAND TOTAL											INDEX: 173.52	%CHG: -0.07	291	231162	450709
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 22/09/1998															
N 1.050	860	EXPORT & FIN. BKR. 754	16.1	0.00	10	32000	19840	87	87	-					
N 950	860	AMMAN INSURANCE	8	0.00	2	15000	12750	86	85	-0.01					
N 1.210	1.000	ISLAMIC INSURANCE CO.	94.5	0.00	1	2000	1000	1.00	1.00	-					
N 490	270	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	9	0.00	6	1400	391	2.77	2.88	0.01					
N 500	340	JOR. TRADE FAC.	8	0.00	2	6000	2340	40	39	-0.01					
N 900	500	UNION INV.	9	0.00	2	3500	1855	53	53	-					
N 620	240	AMMAN FIN. INVEST.	3	0.00	3	1500	395	2.75	2.76	0.01					
N 1.000	810	ARAB JOR. INVEST. CO.	15.3	5.56	1	250	225	95	90	-0.05					
N 260	090	JOR. PRDS. MATCHES-JEMCO	9	0.00	34	131000	24005	16	16	-					
N 430	230	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	9.7	0.00	2	700	1365	1.95	1.95	-					
N 580	260	NATL. MULT. ENG. HANICO	9	0.00	21	50280	8081	2.28	2.29	0.01					
VS 1.230	690	READY MIX CONCRETE	7.2	0.00	2	800	336	70	67	-0.03					
N 500	500	ELCOTC UNOS	9	0.00	19	23000	8006	45	45	-					
N 2.160	1.160	UNION TOBACCO 87.5	9.5	5.90	8	7462	14791	2.11	2.12	0.01					
N 720	570	RAZI PHARM.	9	0.00	2	550	325	60	49	-0.01					
N 190	150	INDUS. ENG.	13.5	0.00	2	1000	213	21	21	-					
N 690	350	INDUS. CERAMIC	9.2	0.00	2	750	263	35	35	-					
N 950	540	ADVANCED PHARMA. IND.	9	0.00	6	2873	1608	55	56	0.01					
N 950	540	OPTICALS & LENSING CO.	9	0.00	14	11450	3895	35	35	-					
N 1.000	690	AL-ETRAJAL PRINTING CO.	11.0	10.52	4	2450	1742	70	72	0.02					

World mourns death of sprint star 'Flo Jo'

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — The world Tuesday mourned Florence Griffith Joyner — the fastest women's sprinter in history, who also established the standards for fashion in track and field.

The American sprinter who owns women's world records at 100 and 200 meters, died at her suburban home Monday at age 38 of an apparent heart seizure.

Police said an autopsy will be conducted but the 1988 Olympic hero is believed to have died of a heart seizure similar to one she suffered in April of 1996 on a plane bound for St. Louis.

"We lost one of the great track and field athletes to history," said Greg Foster, a three-time 110m hurdles world champion. "She is going to be missed. It's definitely a shock, a great loss."

"It's very sad someone so young has to deal with this type of thing," said retired U.S. athletics legend Carl Lewis. "People still remember the things she did."

Sprinter-hurdler Gail Devers and 400-metre hurdler Sandra Farmer Patrick have tried to emulate the glamour of Griffith Joyner, who died Monday of a heart-related problem at 38. Devers has become noted for her extremely long fingernails and Farmer Patrick for her stylish attire, but neither star has received the acclaim nor captured the imagination of the flashy, provocative "FloJo."

Farmer Patrick was devastated by Griffith Joyner's death.

"Florence was like a sister to me," she said, crying uncontrollably. "We shared



Florence Griffith Joyner, center facing camera, celebrates with teammates following a silver medal finish in the women's 4x4 metres relay in Seoul, in this Oct. 1, 1988 photo. Joyner died Monday in Mission Viejo, Calif., of an apparent heart seizure. She was 38 (AP Photo)

Seoul Olympics and was on the 1988 gold medal 4x100m relay. She set a 100m world record of 10.49 seconds in the U.S. Olympic trials and a 200m world record of 21.34 seconds at Seoul.

"We were dazzled by her speed, humbled by her talent and captivated by her style," U.S. President Bill Clinton said. "Though she rose to the pinnacle of the world of sports, she never forgot where she came from, devoting time and

down. But we are all trying to stick together."

Terry Crawford, the 1988 U.S. Olympic women's track coach, was stunned.

"Frankly I'm in shock. Devastated," he said. "Saw her a year ago. She was busy with her different businesses and had a project of youth track clubs in California. She was a great specimen of physical fitness."

Questions of performance-enhancing drugs dogged Griffith Joyner after

Florence was a ground-breaker. The entire community of track and field mourns her passing."

Crawford rejected suggestions of doping, saying, "FloJo will go down in history as one of the greatest athletes on Earth. She met every test. It would be very unfortunate to put any black mark to her name. I hope the world would embrace her."

Evelyn Ashford, a former women's 100m world record holder and Seoul rival of Griffith Joyner, was too shaken by the death to worry about the doping accusations.

"I don't want to talk about the doubts. I'm in shock right now," she said. "Our rivalry and the things about her records, I guess that's why everybody's calling me. I'm shocked. My sister in law called me and told me about the heart attack. I was totally surprised."

Griffith Joyner was also known for her self-designed fancy running uniforms and long fingernails, showing a flamboyance for design that led basketball's Indiana Pacers to have her redesign their uniforms in 1989.

"Florence brought a certain style to track, something so different with her fashionable appearance and stunning speed," said Pat Rico, USA Track's president.

"Flo Jo was a beautiful athlete, a legend and an icon for female athletes throughout the world."

"Sadly, her life has passed as rapidly as her races," said Primo Nebiolo, president of the International Amateur Athletics Federation. "It is a great shock and which makes me extremely sad."

"I knew that Florence Griffith Joyner had had some heart problems in recent months, but didn't think that it was anything really serious. I will never forget this extraordinary athlete who stunned the world in Seoul 10 years ago, with her amazing sprints and spectacular outfits."

Foster learned of Griffith Joyner's death at her Mission Viejo home from Joyner-Kersey, who had

IOC sadness and caution after Flo Jo death

LAUSANNE (AFP) — Sadness and caution were the watchwords of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Tuesday following the sudden death of triple Olympic sprint champion Florence Griffith-Joyner of the USA.

Griffith-Joyner, who won the 100m, 200m and sprint relay at the Seoul Olympics in 1988, died of a suspected heart attack on Monday. "We are very sad," said IOC director general Francois Carrard.

"She was a very great champion who died prematurely."

When asked on the possibility of Flo Jo, who was 38, having used drugs during her career, Carrard refused to speculate.

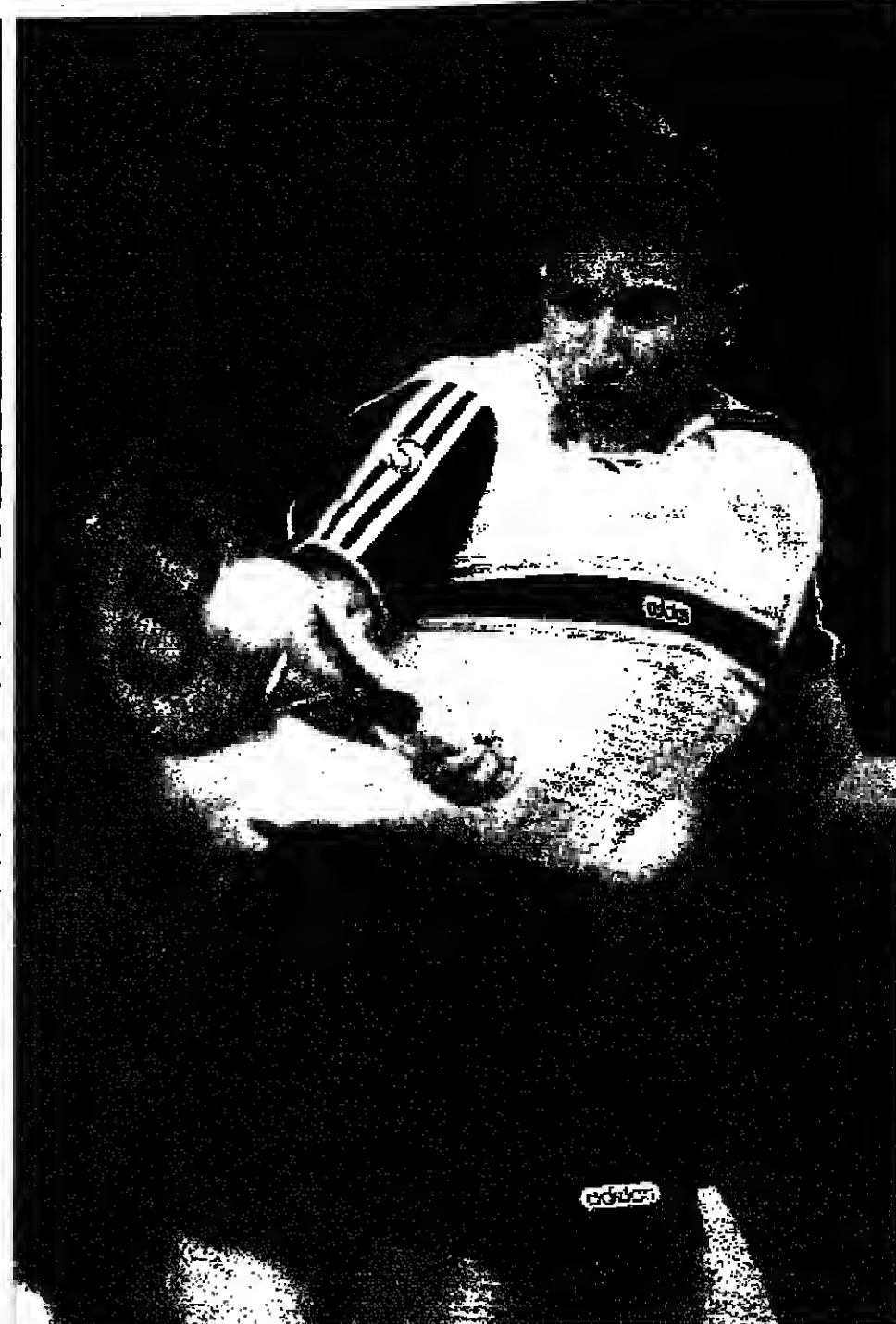
"We don't have an opinion because nothing is known about the matter. It is completely premature to give a decision," Carrard said.

And the IOC is unlikely to demand an enquiry into the death of the American.

"At this stage we are not going to undertake proceedings," Carrard said. "We will see. I'm sure it's a matter which we will talk about again."

"There are a thousand ways to die. I am sure that in the weeks and months to come, we will know more."

Carrard mentioned that Griffith-Joyner was tested for drugs in Seoul and was found to be negative.



Steffi Graf

Coetzer moves up in latest WTA rankings, Graf 22nd

MIAMI (AFP) — South Africa's Amanda Coetzer rose two places into the top ten in the latest WTA rankings released here Monday.

American Lisa Raymond rose one spot past Natasha Zvereva of Belarus into 16th place.

U.S. Open champion Lindsay Davenport remained 146 points behind World No. 1 Martina Hingis of Switzerland, whose team lost to Spain 3-2 in Sunday's Fed Cup final. Former World No. 1 Steffi Graf stayed 22nd. The German, making a comeback after 1997 knee surgery, is 159 points behind 20th-rated Iva Majoli, and 156 behind 21st-ranked compatriot Anke Huber.

1. Martina Hingis (Swi) 5616
pts
2. Lindsay Davenport (USA) 5470

3. Jana Novotna (Cze) 5063
4. Arantxa Sanchez (Spa) 3531
5. Venus Williams (USA) 3015
6. Monica Seles (USA) 2565
7. Cocchita Martinez (Spa) 2404
8. Nathalie Tauziat (Fra) 2301
9. Patty Schuyder (Swi) 2274
10. Amanda Coetzer (Rsa) 2187
11. Dominique Van Roost (Bel) 1998
12. Mary Pierce (Fra) 1948
13. Irina Spirlea (Rom) 1893
14. Anna Kournikova (Rus) 1851
15. Ai Sugiyama (Jpn) 1669
16. Lisa Raymond (USA) 1612
17. Natasha Zvereva (Blr) 1569
18. Sandrine Testud (Fra) 1454
19. Serena Williams (USA) 1418
20. Iva Majoli (Cro) 1376



World No. 2, U.S. Open winner Lindsay Davenport



Olympic gold medalist Florence Griffith Joyner and her husband Al Joyner address a student assembly at Monroe Middle School in Omaha, Neb., in this Aug. 31, 1998 photo. Griffith Joyner, the triple gold medalist at the 1988 Olympics who captivated the world with her meteoric speed and flamboyant style, died Monday of an apparent heart seizure (AP Photo)

so much together. We shared lots of childhood memories and career goals. We had similar values and religious beliefs."

Griffith Joyner was the godmother of Farmer Patrick's 4-year-old daughter, Sierra.

"I chose her because of her strength and her courage," Farmer Patrick said. "I loved her dearly."

Griffith Joyner won the 100 and 200 metres at the

resources to helping children."

Griffith Joyner married 1984 Olympic triple jump champion Al Joyner in 1987 and also became the sister-in-law Jackie Joyner-Kersey, heptathlon world-record holder and six-time Olympic medalist.

Joyner Kersey and her husband-coach Bobby Kersey were unavailable for comment, but Joyner's brother, Wedon Pitts, said, "It's a sad time. Everyone is

she made major speed gains in 1988 and quit the sport shortly thereafter, but she passed every doping test she ever took.

"No one can achieve greatness without being under suspicion," USA Track and Field executive director Craig Masback said. "She was tested 11 times in 1988 and didn't test positive."

"Her legacy should be as a great athlete and a great leader of this sport."

TODAY AT	PHILADELPHIA '1'	PHILADELPHIA '2'	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2	Highway Theatre
	John Travolta & Olivia Newton-John ... in GREASE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Sophie Marceau ... in Leo Tolstoy's love story ANNA KARENINA Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Comedian Adel Imam ... in AL ZA'EEM Shows: 6:30, 9:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30	CONCORD '1' NASSER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' UP CLOSE & PERSONAL Shows: 3:30, 5:30 only	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria ARMAGEDDON Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria GREAT EXPECTATIONS Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45	Watch out for the new play.

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Chelsea beats Blackburn 4-3

LONDON (AP) — Norway's Tore Andre Flo came in as a second-half substitute and scored in the 82nd and 86th minute to lift Chelsea to a 4-3 victory Monday over struggling Blackburn in the English Premier League.

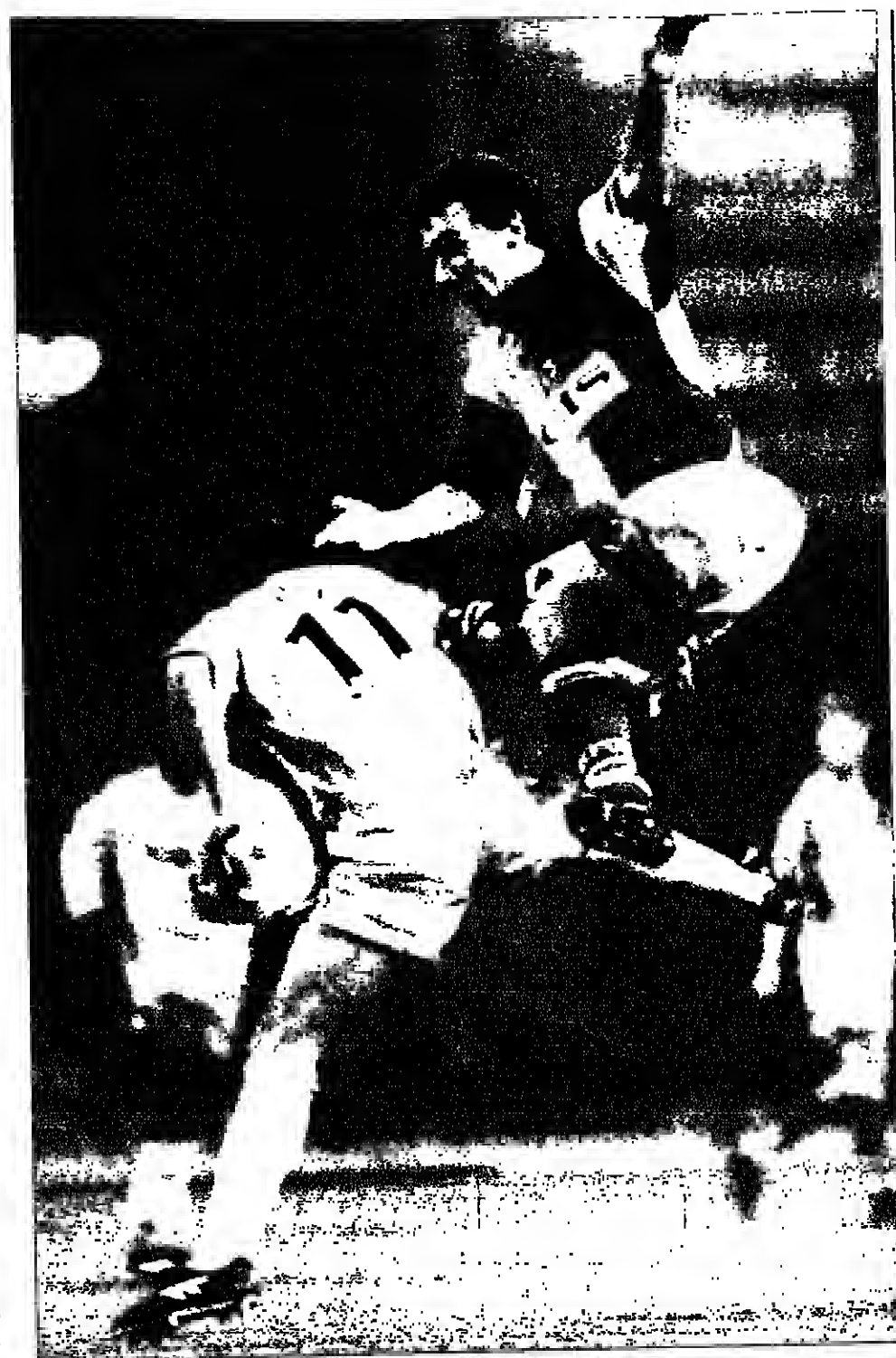
The victory gave Chelsea eight points, six behind leaders Aston Villa. Blackburn has only four points in six matches and is lodged in 18th place in the 20-team league.

Italy's Gianfranco Zola gave Chelsea a 1-0 lead in the 15th, but Chris Sutton tied in the 22nd.

France's World Cup star Frank Leboeuf scored on a penalty in the 51st as Chelsea went ahead again, but Sebastian Perez scored in the 57th to level and Sutton scored his second — this time on a penalty in the 79th — which appeared to be the winning goal.

Flo's first goal came just four minutes after he entered as a substitute for Italian Pierluigi Casiraghi.

Chelsea rallied to the win in the wake of the sending off of England international Graeme Le Saux in the 67th minute. Perez was sent off at the same time on his second yellow card for his part in the run-in with Le Saux.



Chelsea's Dennis Wise (L) challenges Sebastian Perez of Blackburn Rovers during their FA Premiership match (Reuters photo)

Jordan joins 11 teams as 7th Arab Cup finals open in Doha

By a Staff Reporter

QATAR BEAT LIBYA 2-1 in the opening match of the Sept. 22-Oct. 1 Arab Cup finals which kicked off Tuesday in Doha, Qatar with 12 teams taking part.

Syria played Egypt on the opening day's late match, the result of which was unavailable by press time.

Jordan's national team will be playing in Group 1. The Kingdoms team plays its first match against Libya Thursday and will next face hosts Qatar Sept. 26.

Egypt, Kuwait and Syria are playing in Group 2; Morocco, the UAE and Sudan in Group 3, while Group 4 includes Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Lebanon.

The top team in each group will qualify to the second round where the winners advance to the finals and the losers play for third and fourth places.

The Arab Soccer Federation set cash awards

for the top four teams: \$40,000 for the champion, \$30,000 for the runner up, and \$20,000 each for the third and fourth-placed teams.

The Jordanian team headed to Doha after a training camp in Egypt where they won one match, drew in two and lost another two. They previously had two training camps in Aqaba and Yugoslavia.

Jordan has taken part in all past six Arab Cups since the championship first kicked off in 1963. The Kingdom achieved the best result in the 5th Cup hosted in Amman where Jordan took fourth place.

The Kingdom's team has played a total of 21 Arab Cup matches winning only three, drawing in three and losing 15 matches.

Throughout the past six Arab Cups, Jordan scored only 13 goals while allowing 51 in.

Iraq are the four time titleholders. Tunisia and

Egypt have won it once each, while Syria are three time runners-up.

Jordan qualified to the Arab Cup finals after beating Lebanon 2-0, drawing 1-1 with Palestine, and losing to Syria 3-0 in the preliminaries held in Beirut, Lebanon.

Premier League matches have meanwhile been put on hold pending the return of the national team.

Al Faisali currently top the standings on goal difference after Al Wihdat lost their first match 3-0 to Al Hussein.

Al Wihdat have won the Cup and Cup Winners Cup in the last two years and the Premier League in the last four and are this year looking for their 5th consecutive Premier League title. They won the first of the season's titles when they clinched their fourth Cup Winners' Cup.

Al Faisali won the second of the season's four soccer championships when they

won their record 10th Jordan Cup.

The fourth trophy of the year — the Jordan Football Association Shield — is currently underway with teams lineups missing their national team players.

The national team includes Ahmad Abu Nasouh, Mohammad Abu Daoud, Freidon Shamsudin, Abdallah Abu Zame'h, Amjad Taher, Faisal Ibrahim, Hatem Aqel, Haitham Shboul, Haitham Samrin, Mohannad Mahadin, Osama Talal, Subhi Suleiman, Sufyan Abdullah, Ali Juma'a, Laith Dardour, Farid Shananeh, Hassounah Sheikh, Ihab Ma'ali, Abdullah Shiyab, Ra'fat Ali, Badran Shaqran, and Mazen Anbar.

Three key players are missing from the lineup: Jiryes Tadors (injury), Jamal Abu Abed (retired), and Yousef Ammouri who was not named to the team.

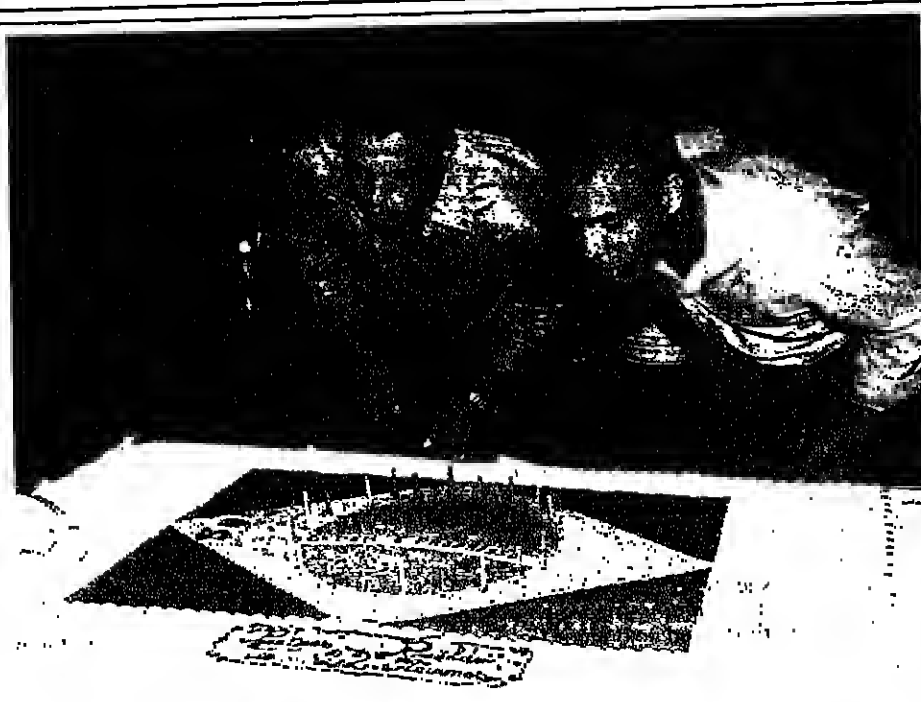
Ben Johnson appeal thrown out

TORONTO (AFP) — Ontario's appeal court on Monday threw out former Canadian sprint star Ben Johnson's appeal against a life ban imposed in 1993 by the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF).

Johnson was banned after twice testing positive for drugs — in the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul and then five years later in an athletics championships in Montreal.

In Seoul the controversial Canadian set a new world record when winning the 100 metres gold, but he had to return the medal in disgrace three days later after a dope test picked up traces of anabolic steroids.

Initially thrown off the track for two years Johnson's ban was extended to life by the IAAF after the Montreal violation, when he tested positive for testosterone.



Inter Milan's Brazilian soccer players Ze Elias, left, and Ronaldo blow out the candles on a cake as they celebrate their 21st birthdays in Milan Sunday (AP Photo)

Princess Cup opens in Tokyo

TOKYO (AFP) — Tamarine Tanasugarn tamed strong winds on outside court to beat Japanese wild card entrant Yuko Yoshida in the first round of the Princess Cup tennis tournament on Tuesday.

The 21-year-old Thai had to steady herself after going down 0-3 in the second set before taking the following six games in a row to post a 6-4, 6-3 victory.

China's top player Li Fang had no problem in beating South Korean qualifier Jeon Mi-Ra 6-2, 6-0 on the adjacent court to Tanasugarn's.

"You don't know what's gonna happen, because it's windy," said Tanasugarn.

"When I was down, I tried to do something different, tried to play more aggressive. It's a kind of good luck that helped my game."

Tanasugarn, who capitalised on a double break chance in

the ninth game of the first set, double-faulted twice before hitting a forehand long to go down 0-2 in the second set.

But the 47th-ranked Thai started to charge to the net on any chance to put pressure on Yoshida, which worked pretty well as she did not face a single break point against her afterwards.

"I expected it to be a tough match, because Yuko is a tough girl, she always fights back. Today, she played very well, too. I just played my best," said Tanasugarn.

Tanasugarn, who will spearhead her country at the Asian Games in Bangkok in December, appeared buoyant and cheerful as she can go back home for the first time in a few months after Tokyo.

Meanwhile, Li said: "It was a little difficult in this wind, but not too bad. The score looks easy, but every game was tough. I just hit a couple of forehands here and there

and she made a lot of mistakes."

Japan's top player Ai Sugiyama pulled out with a foot injury that forced her to abandon a U.S. Open second round match, but number two Naoko Sawamatsu survived the first hurdle of her final WTA tournament.

Sawamatsu, who announced her retirement last week, breezed past Anna Smashnova of Israel 6-1, 6-2 and set up a second-round meeting against former world number one Monica Seles.

Defending champion Seles, seeded second, and other top three seeds received first-round byes.

American Amy Frazier defeated Mirjana Lucic of Croatia 6-2, 6-3, Julie Harand-Decugis of France brushed aside American Kimberly Po 6-0, 6-3, and Olga Barabanschikova of Belarus downed Japan's Miho Saeki 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Romanian players resort to guns against fans

BUCHAREST (R) — Rising violence amongst Romanian soccer fans has spawned a new phenomenon in the country's post-communist sport — the gun-carrying soccer star.

No longer content to confine their rage to smashing buses and shop windows or setting fire to stadium seats, supporters have turned their fury towards the teams.

The players have reacted quickly and carrying a firearm is now viewed almost as a standard precaution by some of the first division's more celebrated — and targeted — names.

"Our players now bring pistols to training sessions and matches because they are afraid of unpredictable behaviour by fans," the Pro Sport daily wrote recently.

In the Black Sea port of Constanta, after the local side were beaten 1-0 by National Bucharest, a frenzied fan began punching National's Stelian Carabas near the dressing-room.

The assault came to an abrupt end when team mate Gheorghe Butoiu thrust a 9mm pistol into the attacker's face.

"I had the gun with me because I was sure that things would get worse,"

Butoiu said. "Unfortunately, I was right." The Romanian Soccer Federation (FRF) has decided not to become involved in the issue. "The FRF has no responsibility in this matter," the federation's general secretary Adalbert Kassai said.

"Owning a gun is a personal issue for every individual in this country. A soccer player is free to defend his integrity in whatever way he feels is best."

Steaua Bucharest coach Mihai Stoichita said he always has his gun at hand.

"After violent supporters forced my flat door last year and threatened to kill my family, I bought a pistol to defend them," he said.

National Bucharest goalkeeper Cristian Munteanu admitted to owning a \$300 Browning pistol and said several of his team mates had also bought weapons.

Goalkeeper Bogdan Lobont, newly promoted to the national squad, said he acquired a gun when his team, Rapid Bucharest, were having a tough time in the league two years ago.

"I was afraid sometimes when angry supporters would approach me on the street and ask why we were doing so badly," Lobont

said. Players at Steaua and Dinamo, who are traditionally linked to Romania's armed forces, are also reported to be heavily armed.

Neither officials nor players would offer any comment but a source close to Steaua said: "Some players keep guns all the time — in their cars, equipment bags or even in their pockets."

Since Dinamo striker Ioan Vladou's house was ransacked by thieves a year ago, he has kept several guns — and three imposing guard dogs — at his home.

"The danger is becoming greater in Bucharest," he said. "So, I have to be very careful."

Some players said the biggest threat came not from fans disgruntled at a club's poor form but from those convinced that star players returning from lucrative stints abroad were easy targets for extorting money.

"Refusing to give money could become dangerous," said national team player Constantin Galca, of Spanish club Espanyol.

"When you refuse, frustrated supporters spit at you and hurl abuse."

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q. 1 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
AKQ6 77 CAJ76 AS43
The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
Pass Pass 10 Pass
10 Pass 2
What do you bid now?
- Q. 2 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
44 CAQJ6 C1088742 4Q9
The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
14 Pass Pass 30
What action do you take?
- Q. 3 - North-South vulnerable, as South you hold:
AKJ64 CAJ76 08 AK43
The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
14 Pass 14 20
What do you bid now?
- Q. 4 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
AJ5 CA10872 AK6 AK88
The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH WEST NORTH EAST
10 Pass 20 Pass
What action do you take?
- Q. 5 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
AS CK3 CAKQ782 AKKQ
The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH WEST NORTH EAST
24 Pass 20 Pass
20 Pass 30 Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q. 6 - East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
AK72 C109542 03 4832
The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
14 10 10 20
What action do you take?

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Watch out for the new play

Netanyahu off for U.N., talks with Albright

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was to leave for New York on Tuesday to attend a U.N. General Assembly session and hold talks with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on Middle East peacemaking.

An Israeli official said Netanyahu might meet Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in New York but only if the two sides first made progress in peace efforts.

Palestinian officials have said Washington is hoping to seal a deal while the two leaders are in the United States but Arafat, in remarks to reporters in Gaza on Tuesday, accused Netanyahu of wrecking any chances.

"We were discussing in detail the peace process and the obstacles we are facing from Netanyahu and his government who are insisting on destroying the peace process," Arafat said after meeting a British foreign official.

The parties are at odds over a U.S. initiative to end an 18-month impasse that includes a proposal for Israel to withdraw its troops from a further 13 per cent of the West Bank in return for tougher Palestinian action against anti-Israeli militants.

The differences are believed to centre on the nature of the Palestinian security measures and an Israeli demand that some of the land it hands over should be held as a "nature reserve."

Netanyahu's communications chief, David Bar-Ilan, said Israel and the United States had agreed on a formula for the 13 per cent pullback but Israel was still waiting to receive specific Palestinian security commitments.

"What's missing is their commitment in detail to the steps the U.S. has suggested for fighting terrorism," said Bar-Ilan.

Israeli soldiers detain peace activists

HEBRON (AFP) — Israeli soldiers detained four peace activists on Tuesday in the disputed West Bank town of Hebron as they tried to demonstrate against the activities of settlers, witnesses said.

The four members of the Hebron Solidarity Committee were arrested by police in the centre of the old town for entering a "closed military area," the witnesses said.

"We came to protest against settlement and occupation, and against the settlers who roam around with their weapons without restriction," said Allegra Pacheco, the group's leader.

Before being led away, the demonstrators managed to hold up placards for several minutes reading "Army And Settlers Out Of Hebron" and

"Settlement-Apartheid."

About 20 other members of the group were stopped from entering Hebron at an Israeli army checkpoint outside the town, the witnesses said.

Hebron has been particularly tense in recent weeks following the killing of a settler and acts of vandalism carried out by settlers against Palestinians and their property. About 400 Jewish settlers, protected by hundreds of Israeli soldiers, live in fortified buildings in the centre of Hebron, surrounded by 120,000 Palestinians.

The quarter of the town where the settlers live remains under Israeli military control while the remaining four-fifths of the town passed to the Palestinian Authority in January 1997.

Saturday after an 11-day mission, saying "some headway" had been made. Palestinians said Ross made little progress in bridging the gaps but that Washington was stepping up its mediation effort.

"The U.S. is keen on achieving a deal and believes there is a good opportunity for this to happen which should not be wasted. American mediation efforts will intensify in New York to seal a deal," Arafat aide Nabil Abu Rdaiah told Reuters on Sunday.

Peacemaking has been stalled since March 1997 when Israel broke ground at the site of a Jewish settlement on the edge of Arab East Jerusalem. Suicide bomb attacks on Israelis by Palestinian militants have deepened the deadlock.

Yemen accuses 'foreign groups' of Aden attacks

DUBAI (AFP) — Yemen's Interior Minister General Hussein Arab has accused unnamed "foreign groups" of being behind Sunday's bombing in Aden that left two dead and 27 injured.

In an interview published Tuesday in the London-based Al Hayat, the minister said the attack "is part of a conspiracy by a network of foreign groups, which has been on trial for several months in Aden."

Arab said the attack on an oil pipeline between Maareb, to the east of Sanaa, and the Red Sea on Saturday was also part of the same conspiracy.

"A foreign plot financed by

suspicious groups is behind these attacks, and there is a vast network dedicated to this purpose," he said.

He said security forces had "arrested most of the network's members and were chasing" those still at large.

Two people were killed, including a child, and 27 injured in a bomb explosion at a busy vegetable market in the Yemeni port city of Aden on Sunday.

It was this year's bloodiest attack in Yemen, where a series of bombs and shootings have rocked the country.

A series of such attacks targeted Aden and Lahj, another southern town, in July. The

attacks, which the government has blamed on the opposition in exile, claimed at least five lives.

Police last month announced the arrest of a network of 22 Yemenis working for undisclosed "foreign parties."

A southern secession bid was crushed by the army of President Ali Abdullah Saleh in 1994, in a two-month civil war. The former North and South Yemen were united in May 1990.

According to official figures, 34 people have been killed and 102 wounded in the unrest. Press reports put the figures at 52 dead and more than 200 injured.

German airlift starts in famine-struck Sudan

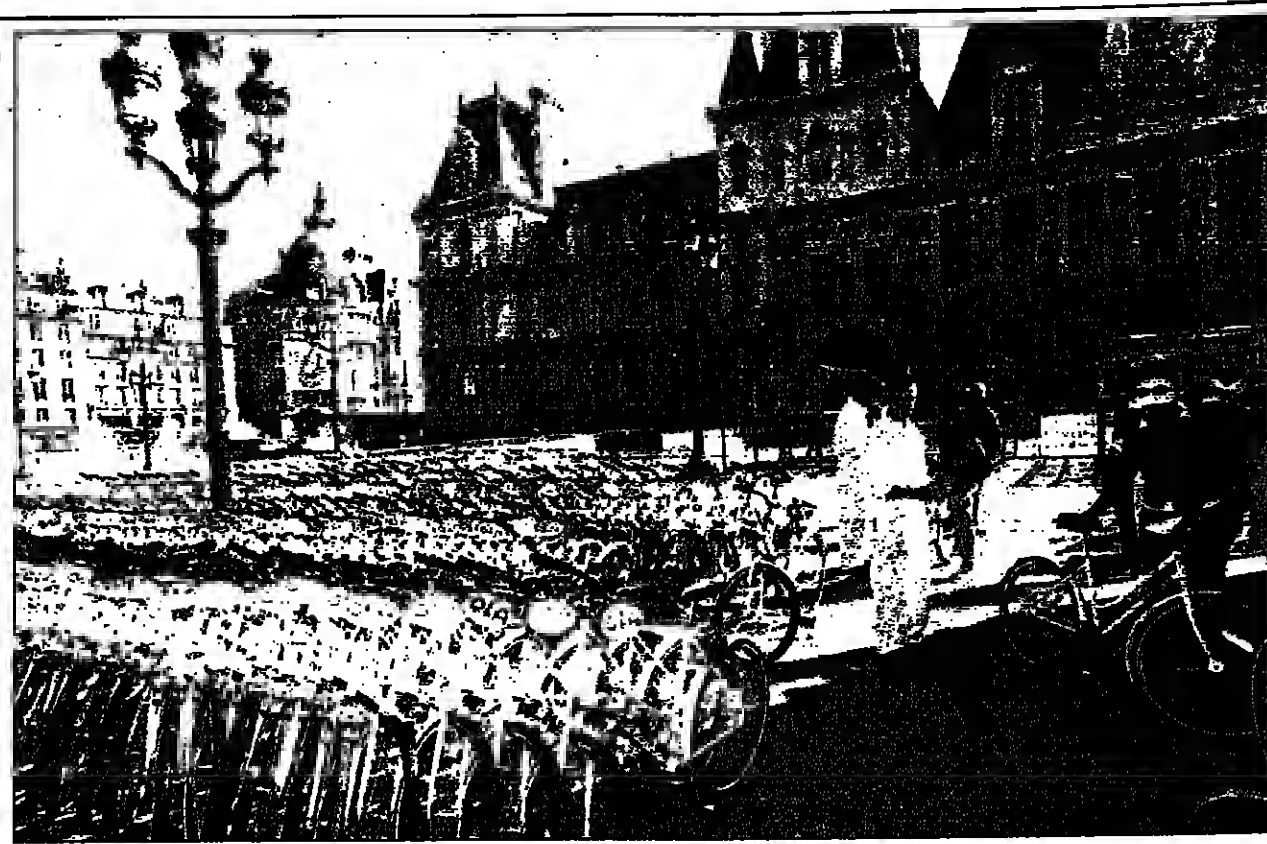
BONN (AP) — A German military transport plane delivered humanitarian aid to southern Sudan early Tuesday after shipments in the famine-struck north African nation were delayed by last month's U.S. military strike. The relief flight, which took off from the Sudanese capital

Khartoum at 6:13 a.m., was headed for Wau, in southern Sudan, the defence ministry said.

Hundreds of thousands of people face famine in the south, where rebels and government forces have been at war for 15 years. Sudan's government declared a unilateral ceasefire in

the area Aug. 3 to promote the flow of aid.

Defence officials say the airlift is supposed to run for at least two months with as many as four flights daily from Khartoum, where Germany has stationed two planes and 50 soldiers.



A FRENCH DAY WITHOUT CARS: Bicycles are for hire outside the Paris townhall Tuesday allowing people to ride in the French capital on the 'Day without Cars.' Thirty-five French cities blocked off areas from traffic to force commuters out of their cars and into public transit in an operation planned by the Green Party environment minister. In Paris 57 kms of the 1,600 of streets were blocked to regular traffic (AP photo)

Taleban scholars mull Iran crisis

Army chief denies Pakistani troops involved in Afghanistan

KABUL (R) — Afghanistan's Taleban militia on Tuesday convened a meeting of influential Islamic scholars to discuss the crisis with neighbouring Iran.

The Kabul gathering, the first since the radical Sunni Muslim militia swept to power in 1996, was called by the Taleban's supreme leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar.

"The first step will be focused on finding ways to ease the tension and to advise Tehran that war is not in the benefit of Islam," Abdul Rahman Hotak, deputy information minister, told Reuters.

"If Iran resorted to any provocative act, then finding an Islamic justification for going into war, by making security and defensive measures, would be the other step." The role of scholars, or Ulama, is key to the Taleban movement, which was born in religious schools, or madrassas, and attracted young "Talibs" or seekers to join a group seeking to create the world's purest Muslim state in Afghanistan.

The Taleban and their powerful Shi'ite neighbour have engaged in a war of words over alleged atrocities and human rights violations since the Taleban admitted that nine missing Iranian diplomats had been killed by its men in August.

Omar says renegade Taleban killed them when the movement overran the opposition stronghold of Mazar-e-Sharif last month.

But he rejects Iranian charges that the Taleban committed reprisals against Shi'ites when they seized the central town of Bamiyan this month.

It is also being held as a key U.N. group of neighbouring states plus the United States and Russia meet in New York to discuss the crisis and investigate the atrocity allegations.

Hotak said tension with Iran was fading but said the Ulama meeting would discuss mobilising and organising Afghans to join Taleban ranks if war broke out.

He said the scholars had converged from around Afghanistan and from abroad and would also discuss the current situation now that the Taleban control nearly 90 per cent of the country.

"Some Ulama may make proposals or criticism of the present situation as, after nearly 20 years, the country is on the verge of one rule," he said, without elaborating.

Omar's movement is recognised as the Kabul government by Sunni Muslim Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, but Afghanistan's U.N. seat is held

by Burhanuddin Rabbani, the man toppled when the Taleban seized Kabul in September 1996.

The international community backs calls for a broad-based Afghan government to end two decades of factional, ethnic and political violence which have wrecked the country.

Ulama have played important roles in Afghanistan, one of Islam's most traditional and conservative societies.

Most of the tribal and popular uprisings, whether against imperial power Britain in the 19th century or the Soviet Union in the 1980s, have been waged in the name of Islam.

Three years ago Omar was elected as Amir ul Momineen (commander of the faithful), an Islamic title, and endorsed a holy war against the then government of Rabbani.

Robinson, who is in New York for the U.N. General Assembly, said the mandate of the Soares mission did not envisage follow-up measures.

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Lucent executive heads list of 'most powerful' U.S. businesswomen

NEW YORK (AFP) — Carly Fiorina, a top executive at the telecom group Lucent Technologies, heads a list of the 50 most powerful U.S. businesswomen, Fortune magazine said Monday. Most of the women work in advertising, media, entertainment and publishing companies. Heading the list is Fiorina, who heads a division of Lucent Technologies, a company with annual revenues of \$19 billion. The next nine powerful women are: Television star Oprah Winfrey; Heidi Miller, chief financial officer of Travellers Group; Shelly Lazarus, chairman and CEO of Ogilvy and Mather Worldwide; Sherry Lansing, chairman of Motion Picture Group; Jill Barad, chairman and CEO of Mattel; Marilyn Carlson Nelson, CEO of Carlson Companies; Andrea Jung, president of Avon Products; and Abby Joseph Cohen, co-chair of investment policy at Goldman Sachs.

Twins win French culinary award

PARIS (AFP) — Jacques and Laurent Pourcelet, owners of the three-star "Jardin des Sens" restaurant in southern Montpellier, have been jointly named "Chef of the Year" by the specialist magazine "Le Chef." The twins aged 33, described as culinary prodigies by the French, set up the Montpellier restaurant 10 years ago that has become famous for its stuffed squid, roast angler fish and tomato pie. The "Chef of the Year" is named by secret ballot by chefs listed in the prestigious Michelin guide, viewed as the reference work on fine French hotels and eating-places. After winning two stars in the Michelin in 1992, they were given a third-prize star by the guide this year for their "creative Mediterranean-style cuisine" and reasonable prices.

Murdoch's house for sale

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Media mogul Rupert Murdoch and his estranged wife, Anna, have put their Beverly Hills-area house on the market for \$19.5 million. The couple, who filed for divorce in July, owned the home for 12 years. The Mediterranean-style home, built for a film director in 1927, has eight bedrooms and features a circular courtyard with a wishing well, fancy gardens and a pool.

Top French jewellers unhappy about film starring Deneuve

PARIS — "Place Vendôme," a new French film about diamond heists starring Catherine Deneuve, has upset the country's top jewellers. In a statement, the association of "haute jewellery" complained that the film about a family of jewellers associated with theft threatened to "reduce an entire and perfectly respectable profession to a gamut of sordid delinquent practices." "Place Vendôme" is entitled after the Paris square of the same name where some of the world's finest jewellers have set up boutique. Directed by Nicole Garcia, Deneuve won the best actress prize for her role at Italy's Mostra festival earlier this month.

Sympathy for Clinton after release of grand jury deposition

LONDON (AP) — His enemies scoffed. But as Bill Clinton's grand jury testimony was beamed around the globe many observers — not all of them admirers — expressed dismay that the president of the United States should have to suffer ritual humiliation on television.

From Europe to Asia and the Middle East, people decried what they saw as an erosion of standards protecting privacy and keeping explicit sexuality out of the mainstream media.

"The disproportion of this groping investigation into a pathetic and tacky affair defies belief," wrote commentator Polly Toynbee in London's Guardian newspaper.

Ulf Andenaes, a commentator on Oslo's Aftenposten, attacked Clinton's accusers, saying they "must be blind to how this affair is discrediting the United States abroad." Callers to Bucharest's Pro TV compared Clinton's ordeal to trials under the former Communist regime, where

people were "put in a corner, judged, and punished, in most cases without being guilty," said Ionela Banarescu, a producer at the station.

"Many Romanians suffered these unjust traumas, and Clinton's testimony reminded them about those past, painful moments under Communism." But Clinton's political opponents exulted at Monday's broadcast of his four hours of testimony, which went out unedited in some places. Many TV stations continued running excerpts Tuesday.

"Palestinians follow details with a sense of rejoicing" ran the headline in the Palestinian daily Al Ayyam. The newspaper quoted political analyst Ghassan Khatib as saying Palestinians feel Clinton is too pro-Israel, "and so that is why they watched to see his face and body movement that revealed his uncomfortable situation." Few felt Clinton had been damaged.

"For those who viewed the tape he was what he has been

for them for six years: a good president but a mediocre man, husband and father," said the Rome-based daily La Repubblica.

But some feared his credibility — and that of his government — had been eroded. "Is Clinton in condition to govern the world in this time of economic uncertainty?" asked Barcelona's El Periodico newspaper. "Can he think, advise and decide calmly? The doubt gets bigger." The Norwegian newspaper Dagsavisen said recent events "have to a large extent paralysed the United States' ability to lead in a turbulent world." But for Thais, Clinton's ordeal proved "the strength and resilience of the American political culture," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Kobsak Chutikul.

"One cannot imagine the leader of any other country being put through such an ordeal in a public and transparent manner. Rather than seeing this as a weakness or losing respect,

one can see it as a demonstration of American inner strength — that no one is above the law." In Canada, one person reserved the harshest criticism for the media, accusing it of broadcasting Clinton's deposition to boost ratings.

"No matter what they say, it's about sex; it's about ratings and there's no denying that," said Gail MacLennan, a freelance consultant and writer. "This has just upped the ante in terms of what is acceptable to expose." That sentiment was shared by papers in Iran.

"Whether one is for or against President Bill Clinton, the U.S. media has demonstrated its lack of taste and discretion," the Iran News said. In Paris, editorial writers tired of the scandal.

"Ad nauseum" headlined the leftist daily Liberation on Tuesday. Broadcasting the Clinton testimony "revealed nothing...if not the tenacity of the Republicans to make him fall." Will it end here? Not

likely, said The Times of London, pointing out that Congress still must decide whether to censure or impeach the president, and mid-term elections are approaching. "This show, unfortunately, is destined to run and run."

Clinton's appearance at U.N. overshadowed by videotape

NEW YORK (AP) — He got a standing ovation from the United Nations and appeared at ease in a discussion of the global economy with three other world leaders. But at the end of the day, President Bill Clinton had one question: Did anybody notice? Clinton went through the motions Monday as if everything in his presidential diary were normal. But he was obviously concerned about the American people's perception of him after they saw four hours' worth of him sweating, hemming and hawing about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

So, after sitting at New York University's law school for two hours, talking about democracy in the new global economy with the president of Bulgaria and the prime ministers of Britain and Italy, Clinton asked his aides whether the media reported what he'd done all day.

"He was assured that there had been coverage of, among other things, the warm reception he got here, and he was grateful for that," said White House spokesman Mike McCurry. The president worked hard to appear on top of

his job. He buttonholed British Prime Minister Tony Blair at New York University for a brief chat about Kosovo, Russia, the Middle East and the idea of continuing discussions, as McCurry described it, of "a centrist approach to dynamic governing in industrial democracies." Then, Clinton called it a night. He and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton enjoyed a quiet dinner together in their suite at the swank Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

Tuesday was another day, however, and the White House raised its guard against questions on grand juries and investigations.

Reporters were not to be allowed in Clinton's meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi at the Rockefeller family estate in Tarrytown, New York. They likewise were to be excluded from the tea before it and the luncheon after it. But weather conditions prevented Clinton from flying to Tarrytown by helicopter. So he and Obuchi decided to meet in New York — allowing reporters in for a few questions at the start.

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